

# THE MAGI: ASTROLOGERS

- Magi studied the sky to find portents and omens to interpret the present and foretell the future
- Jews did not embrace the Zodiac, but they did watch the sky
- Job 9:8–10
- Great Bear and Orion were already named constellations by Job's time



# CHRISTIAN TRADITION

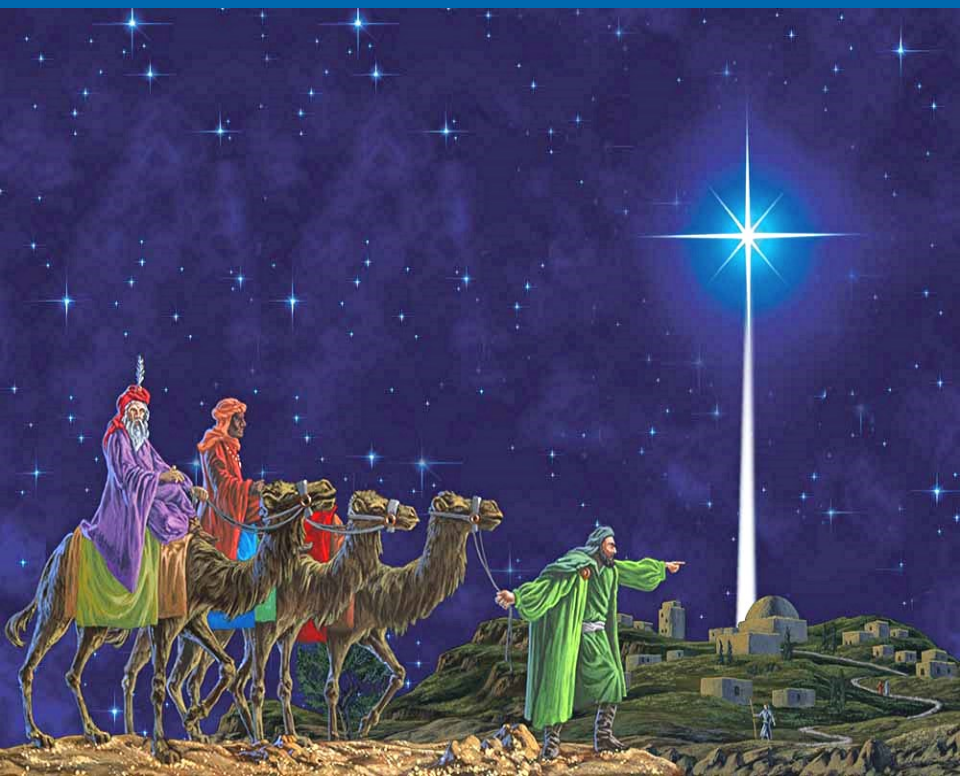
- Some Theologians think the birth star is a comet, supernova, or planetary conjunction
- Others see star as a miracle
- Star often pictured as large and bright; Matthew does not suggest such a thing
- The ONLY people who were aware of the star were the pagan magi; the Jews were not
- Luke 2:8–11
- The Shekinah was the illumination, along with an angel
- The star did NOT illuminate the place of Christ's birth



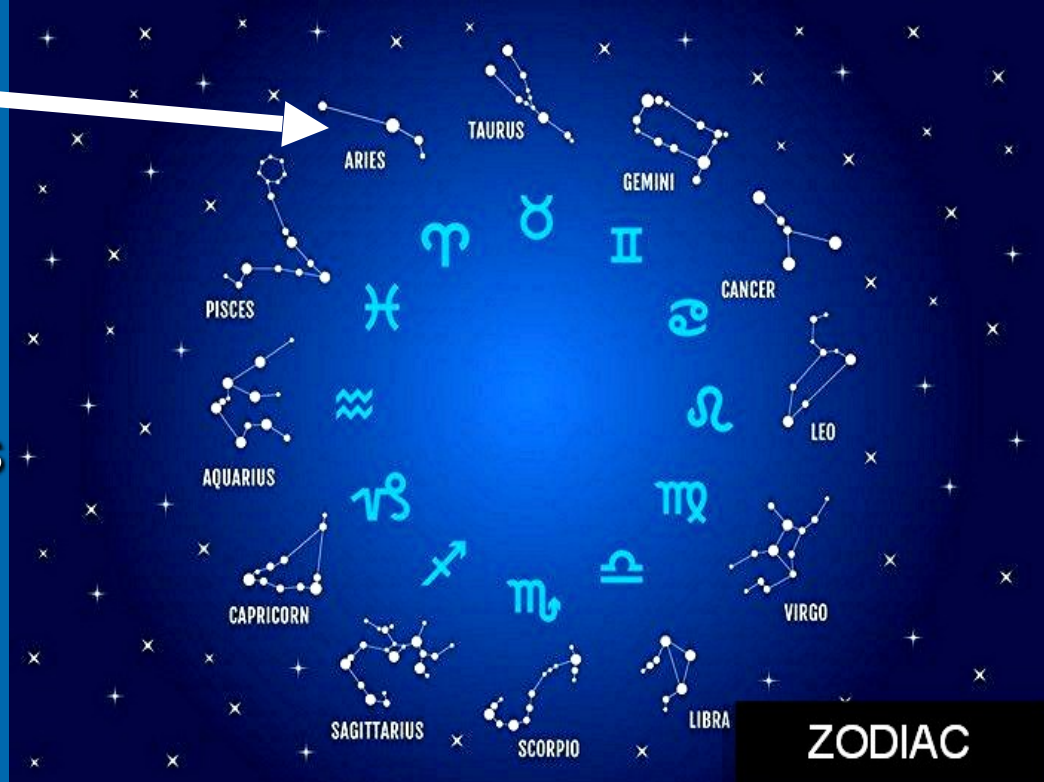


# WHICH CHILD ?


- Luke 2:12 The one lying in a feeding trough
- Jews NOT to be looking for a new born king, but rather a Deliverer
- Matt. 2:9–10 Seems to say the star led the magi from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, even to the exact place of the child
- Yet Matthew in no way implies that the star was miraculous or supernatural



- Aries thought to represent Herod's Kingdom (Judea)
- Luke 1:5 Birth story of John the Baptist begins
- Herod died in 4 B.C., likely 6 B.C. is the year of Christ's birth
- The sign of a king dying or being born was very important
- Magi would have been looking for something specific that only they would have recognized
- March 20, 6 B.C., a planetary conjunction in Aries occurred



# “At the rising”

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- A sunset scene with a bare tree silhouette in the center. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a bright star in the upper right corner. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds.
- “In the east” was an astrological term that meant “at the rising”
  - What the magi saw was a morning star
  - “Went in front” or “Went before” are astrological terms that meant “to go in the same direction as the sky moves”
  - “Stopped over” or “Stood over” meant, according to Ptolemy, “above in the sky”
  - Re-phrase Matt. 2:9 *After they had listened to the king they went away; and the star which they had seen at the rising, which went in the same direction the sky moves, came and was above in the sky where the child was*

# ONE SIGN FOR MAGI, ANOTHER FOR JEWS

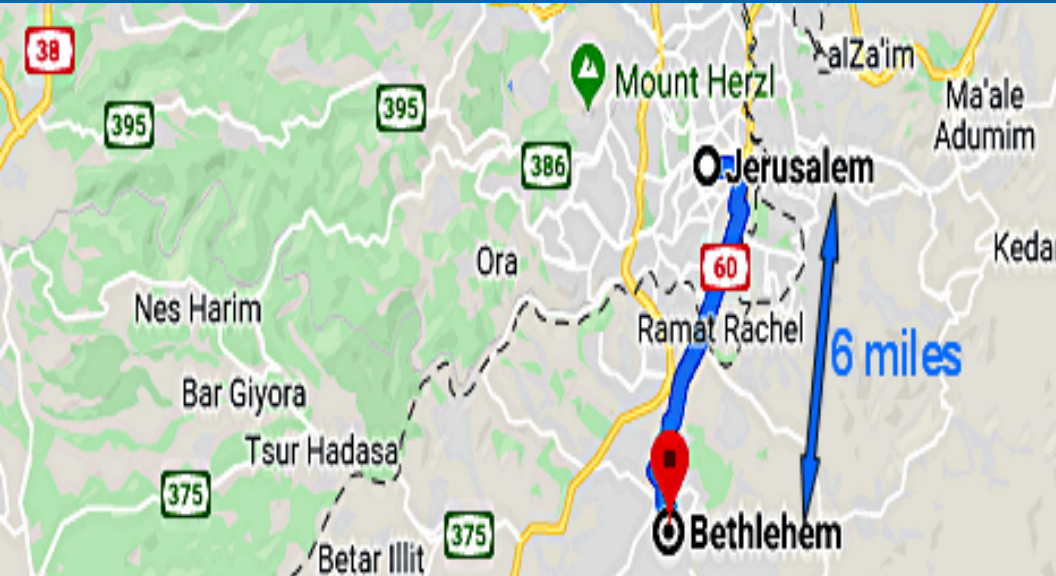


- Birth star was NOT a sign for the Jews, only for pagan magi
- Baby laid in a feeding trough was God's sign for the Jews
- Matt. 2:11 Magi worshipped child as a King, not as divinity
- God gave different signs to pagans and to Jews that each could accept and identify with





- 4 pieces of info in Matt. 2:1
- 1) Name of the child 2) place of His birth 3) birth occurred during Herod's reign 4) Magi came
- Herod called senior priests and Scribes for council
- Senior priests from the Temple system
- Scribes from the Synagogue system
- They told him the child would be born in Bethlehem

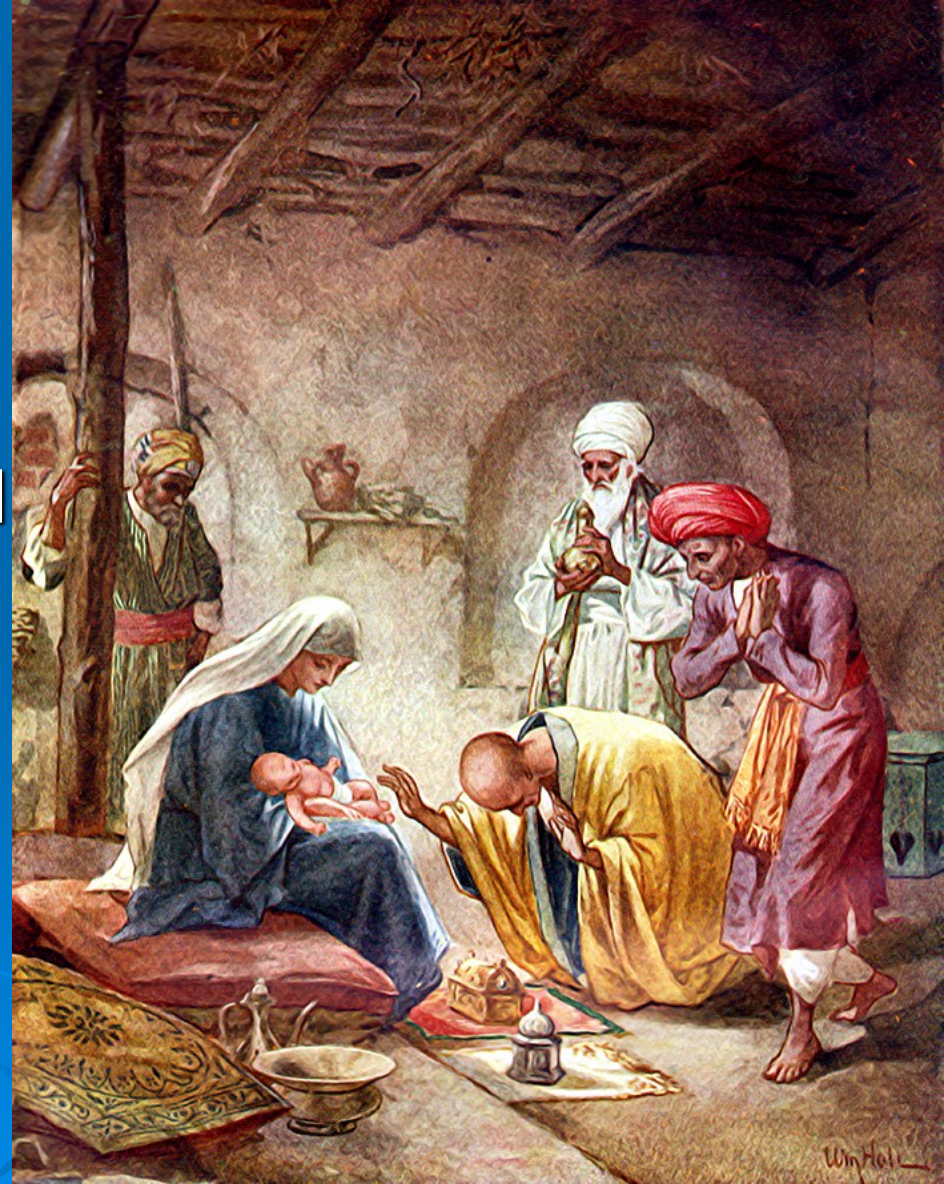


- Micah 5:1 (2)
- Herod told the magi to go to Bethlehem, find the child, and report back to him
- Magi didn't need the star to lead them to Bethlehem
- Christ not born in a cave or barn, but rather in a "house"
- Courtyard part of house where the animals were gathered for protection

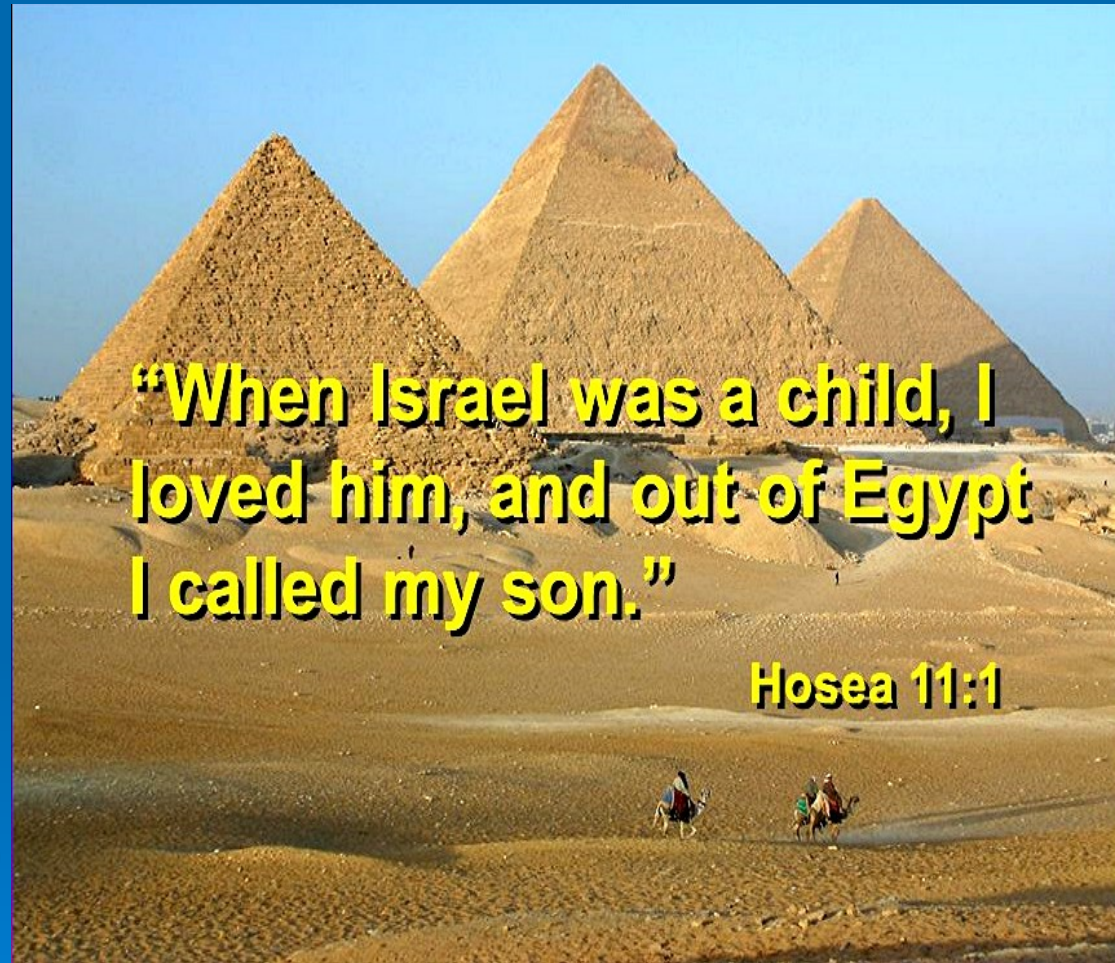


# HOW OLD WAS THE CHILD?

- The description of the child seems to be of an infant
- But the timing makes the child about 1 year old
- After paying homage, the magi left for their home
- Joseph told “in a dream” to take his family to Egypt to be protected against Herod
- “The” Angel or “An” Angel of the Lord?
- Probably “An” Angel since God’s name is not used



- God calls Israel “His Son” in Ex. 4:22
- 4 meanings Jews used to interpret the Bible
- ***P’shat***: Simple, literal
- ***Remez***: Hint
- ***Drash***: Application, based on God’s guidance
- ***Sod***: Secret
- Matthew likely used the ***Remez*** method to make the link of “My Son” between Israel and Yeshua



**“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”**

**Hosea 11:1**



- Herod died in 4 B.C.; likely that is when Joseph's family returned to the Holy Land
- In a paranoid rage, Herod had all male children 2 years and younger in Bethlehem and nearby areas killed
- Similar to what Pharaoh did to Israel 1400 years earlier
- Ex. 1:15–22