

## “Following Christ's Star”

By Mrs. Sojourner



We can see that these Wise Men, or Magi, were "people of faith," told about in Matthew 2, obviously had faith that the star would lead them to the King of the Jews. They even referred to the star as belonging to Jesus, the King.

and [the Magi] asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 (NIV)

They backed their faith up by coming a great distance to pay homage to this infant king and give him gifts. Their action here supports something I have heard The Sojourner say many times, that you can tell what people consider important, because they put money into whatever is important to them. The Magi embarked on a major journey (which costs money) and brought valuable gifts (which of course cost more money). "Christ's star" in our lives may not be a literal star as it was in the Magi's case, but we do have certain things that the Holy Spirit is leading us individu-

Notes:

ally to do. These tasks may not be easy, they may cost us, and they may take a long period of time.

Be on guard so to not make the journey longer than necessary, by catching sight of another "star" and taking an unfruitful detour.

Be assured, we know that we are following the right star, because our whole purpose in the journey is to worship our Lord and bring him glory. Also, when one journey is accomplished, God will let us know where to go next, just as he did when he sent an angel in a dream to direct the Wise Men to take a different route back to their country.

If the journey God has you taking, goes in unfamiliar territory, just follow the star of his Spirit and you will reach your destination.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner



## “To Fulfill” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)



Here we are looking once again at the events surrounding the birth of the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem over two millennia ago. We have seen that prophets foretold the Savior many hundred years before the event took place. We have seen the writ of ancient scrolls tell of the events leading up to Jesus' birth in that now famous stable.

### Announcement in the Holy of Holies

We can learn much from the manner in which God chooses to bring his only begotten son into the world.

There was an announcement made to the High Priest of that year as he ministered in the Holy of Holies, carrying out the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrificial lamb on the Ark of the Covenant. He was carrying out his function when he learns that he and his wife are going to have a son. Now this couple were both well beyond child-bearing years. The High

Notes:

#### ful·fill

1. To bring into actuality;
2. To carry out .
3. To measure up to; satisfy.
4. To bring to an end; complete.

Priest's first inclination was to laugh at such an incredible possibility. God caused it to happen anyway. Their son became the precursor of The Christ.

### Angel With Mary

Mary then encounters an angel telling her she would have The Christ Child. Mary also

questions how this could be since she was a virgin. God caused it to happen anyway. It was just as she was told, also.

### Joseph's Concerns

Joseph was concerned about the fantastic story he had heard from Mary. He questioned her credibility and sought to "put her away, quietly. God sent an angel to dissuade Joseph. God caused

**Ezekiel 12:25**  
But I the LORD will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious house, I will fulfill whatever I say, declares the Sovereign LORD.' "

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

### Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> because he will save his people

#### Notes:

[a] Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the LORD saves.

[b] Isaiah 7:14

[c] The Hebrew is plural.

[d] Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls *and he or and they*

[e] *Immanuel* means *God with us*.

from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[b]</sup>—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>[c]</sup> a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and<sup>[d]</sup> will call him Immanuel.<sup>[e]</sup>

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his plan to happen anyway.

### Prophecy Fulfilled

Revelation of God's plan having been accomplished, God fulfilled his plan.

When a matter is fulfilled it is accomplished, carried out, brought to an end, satisfied, completed. With God a fulfillment it is carried out his way.

### Living Out The Promise

Mankind is now continuing to live out the plan of God. This plan is to permit the completion of the redemption of all mankind who will come into God's kingdom through Jesus the Christ.

Free will can disturb the goal of God's plan in two ways.

1. A person not accepting God's son and thus condemning themselves to separation eternally from God.
2. A believer not spreading the Gospel (Good News) of God's plan to everyone they can.

God will fulfill his plan at his time as he has always done to bring about completion of redemption in his own way in his own timing... go with God's plan, God's way!



## Advent

This is the fourth week in Advent. This is the week (re-light 1st three candles) we light the:

### Shepherd's Candle

#### Saying:

"I light the Shepherd's Candle which reminds us God sent an angel and host of angels to tell the shepherds of the Savior's birth, instructing the shepherds to go worship him."

#### Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:8-16

#### Song:

"Angels We Have Heard On High"