

## Are You Truly Following Jesus? Follow the Star. He Shows You the Way

One of the lesser known aspects of the Christmas season is the word Epiphany. We celebrate Epiphany on January 6, 12 days after Christmas. This recognizes when the Wise Men arrived at the manger to worship Jesus. The Bible tells us they came from a far-away foreign land in the East. The Wise Men (also referred to as Magi) were learned astronomers. Not only did they study celestial bodies in the sky but they were aware of prophesies that said the "King" would be born in Bethlehem. They recognized that the star guiding them on their journey was supernatural. Their conclusion was that God was leading them to the Christ child. The Bible tells us they said: *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). The star guided them to the place of Jesus' birth.



Our modern dictionary gives several definitions for the word epiphany, all of which apply to Jesus. Various definitions include:

- commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles
- a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something
- a divine being
- an illuminating discovery
- a revealing scene or moment.

In our everyday conversation today we even use the word epiphany as a new, brilliant idea. Jesus was sent to earth to live among us to establish a new relationship between God and man.

As we recognize January 6 as Epiphany let us remember the journey of the Wise Men. They traveled a great distance to worship the newborn King. How about you? Whom do you follow? How far would you go to find Jesus?

We have the advantage of hindsight described in the Bible, laying out God's plan in black and white:

- We all know that Jesus came to earth as an infant. We know that His coming fulfilled prophecies.
- Christmas is just the beginning of a new relationship between God and mankind. Let the New Year be a celebration of the opportunity to seek a new beginning and a renewed commitment to seeking Him.
- We know that Jesus lived a perfect life, showing us how to live.
- We also know that He died for our sins.
- In his resurrection from the dead we know that He offers us a gateway to heaven.
- The star illuminated the way to the place of Jesus birth for the Wise Men. Jesus shows us the way from then on: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life* (John 8:12)

We are all on the journey of a lifetime, trying to find our purpose in life. With all these known facts, what are you seeking? God is hoping you will follow His lighted path that will lead to fulfillment and purpose. God is continually placing signs in your path to guide you on that journey. If you find Him it will be an epiphany – that He is your personal Savior. Seek and follow Him.

**Question:** Do you seek to follow Jesus or are you wandering aimlessly through life, without purpose or direction? What signs from God do you see in your life?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We can learn a great deal from the Wise Men, who followed your unmistakable sign that Jesus is the Messiah, delivering us from our sins. Let us follow Him. Amen.