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Dear Associates and Friends,

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The article this month "[Star of Bethlehem: Jeff Rense Interviews Ernest Martin](#)" is sort of an introduction to Dr. Ernest Martin's book, *The Star That Astonished the World: The Star of Bethlehem*. What prompted the Magi to go to Jerusalem and seek out the Messiah?

"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.'"

• **Genesis 1:14**

The lights in the "firmament" or sky were indeed signs, as well as for other purposes. What is meant by "signs"? Signs point the way to something. The stars and the planets are meant (as well as the sun and moon) to be used to count time as well as cycles and patterns of life. All of them were for signs, all were for seasons, all were for days, and all were for years. The purpose of the lights was for them to give information.

How Did the Magi Know When and Where to Go?

The Magi knew because they had access to biblical records produced before the exile of the people [the Israelites] to Babylon. Those records were compiled, cataloged, and preserved by Daniel and his associates. Daniel was the chief of the "wise men" of Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar reigned.

"Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon."

• **Daniel 2:48**

When King Belshazzar later became king, Daniel was able to read the supernatural handwriting on the wall of the banquet room. Daniel was elevated to a position of **"the third ruler in the Kingdom"** of Babylon (Daniel chapter 5, especially verses 16, 29). Later, Belshazzar needed help. Daniel was recommended.

"There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans, and diviners."

• **Daniel 5:11**

Minutes later King Belshazzar was killed by King Darius of Persia when the Persians suddenly seized the city of Babylon. Daniel retained an honored position under Persian rule. After Daniel died, other Israelites held high positions in the Persian government:

- Mordecai from the tribe of Benjamin was designated to be second in authority under the Persian King Ahasuerus (Esther 10:1-3). He continued to preserve the sacred books we know as most of the Old Testament that Daniel maintained.
- Ezra **"the scribe"** (Ezra 7:6, 11) was **"a ready [skilled] scribe in the law of Moses"** (verse 6). He was granted everything he requested, by Artaxerxes, King of Persia. Ezra desired **"to teach in Israel statutes and judgments"** of YHWH (Ezra 7:10) to the returning exiles from Babylon. The **"judgments"** would have included the histories and wisdom books of Israel, as well as the prophetic writings —

all of which Ezra brought from Persia in addition to the Law of Moses. The prophecies of the coming **“King of the Jews”** (Matthew 2:2) were no doubt translated to Persian, and later read and understood by the Magi who would have had access to them.¹

- Nehemiah, the cupbearer with constant access to the Persian King (also likely Artaxerxes) was granted great power to serve his people Israel as Governor of Judea. In the apocryphal but historical writing of 2 Maccabees 2:13, it is said:

“The same things are reported in the records and in the memoirs of Neemias [Nehemiah], and also that he founded a library and collected the books about the kings and prophets, and the writings of David [David], and letters of kings about votive offerings.”

• *2 Maccabees 2:13, New English Translation of the Septuagint*

As Dr. Martin shows in [Chapter 2: “Who Were the Wise Men?”](#) of his book *The Star That Astonished the World, the Star of Bethlehem*, the Magi were not idolaters or magicians. They did come from **“the east,”** near the great city of Babylon, and they learned about the prophecies of the coming **“King of the Jews.”**

Remember, most of Israel did not return from Babylon. Only a minority made the initial return to Judea. Most of them remained in the East. However they acquired it, the Magi had biblical information available to them and they understood the “Gospel in the Stars” as it applied to the King of the Jews.

Thank You

We no longer require the “Gospel in the Stars” or the “Witness of the Stars.” We have the Word of God.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds [Greek, eons]. ...

And, You, Lord, in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hands.”

• *Hebrews 1:1–2, 10*

The Son of God, the first creation of God (Colossians 1:15) was tasked by God to make “the eons.” The Son who created time, also created what we today call the universe — in biblical terms, **“the heavens and the earth.”** This is clear from 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15–19, as well as these verses in Psalm 33:

“By the word of YHWH were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. ... For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

• *Psalm 33:6, 9*

Christ is the Son of God. He is the Word of God (John 1:1–3). He is the image of the invisible God (2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15). We shall be like Him when we will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). Indeed, we are incredibly blessed to know such things. ASK helps you to realize all that can be known.

Thank you for letting us help others learn the truths of God, His Son, and our destiny as children of God created in His image, who wait for Christ’s return along with all creation (Romans 8:21–23). The task for all of us at this time, is **“... to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”** (1 Thessalonians 1:9–10).

May **“the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ”** (2 Thessalonians 3:5), and bless each of you so you **“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”** (2 Peter 3:18), toward the full knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) that God wishes for each of us.

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¹ Dr. Martin’s article [“Mosaic Prophecies for the End-Time”](#) explains the messianic prophecies in the five books of Moses.