

God Who Controls History (Christmas Story)

Matthew 2:1-12



Kings of <u>Israel</u>	Prophets	Kings of <u>Judah</u>	Prophets
Jehoash (798-782 BC)	Elijah	Jehoshaphat (873-848 BC)	
Zechariah (753-752 BC)	Elisha	Q. Athaliah (841-835 BC)	Obadiah
		Joash (835-796 BC)	Joel
Pekahiah (742-740 BC)	Amos	Uzziah (<u>790-740 BC</u>)	<u>Isaiah</u>
Pekah (752-732 BC)	Jonah	Jotham (<u>750-731 BC</u>)	<u>Micah</u>
722 BC Conquered	Hosea	Ahaz (735-715 BC)	Jeremiah...
		586 Conquered	

He was despised and rejected—
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

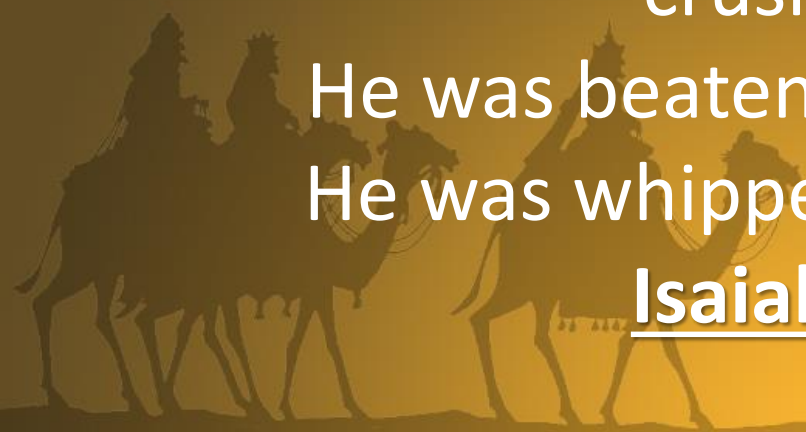
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from
God, a punishment for his own sins!

⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

Isaiah 53:1-5 (NLT)



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, **out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel**, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Micah 5:2

For us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

Period	Prophets
Babylonian Exile	Ezekiel (590-571 BC) <u>Daniel</u> (605-539 BC)
<u>Post-Exile</u> Governor Zerubbabel Governor Nehemiah	Haggai (520 BC) Zechariah (519-480 BC) Malachi (445-425 BC)

⁴ But when the set time had fully come...

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)



¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:1, 3-5 (NIV)

4 Great Empires in History (Daniel 7)

Time line	Great Empires
612-539 BC	Babylonian Empire
539-331 BC	Medo-Persian Empire
331-143 BC	Greek Empire
27BC-393 AD	Roman Empire

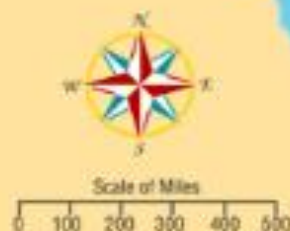
7:17 'these large beasts, which are four in number, represent four kings who will arise from the earth'

7:18 the Saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will take possession of the kingdom forever and ever. Daniel 7:17-18





The Medo-Persian Empire



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Now, Your majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered- in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.

Daniel 6:8 (NIV)

Therefore if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed...

Esther 1:19

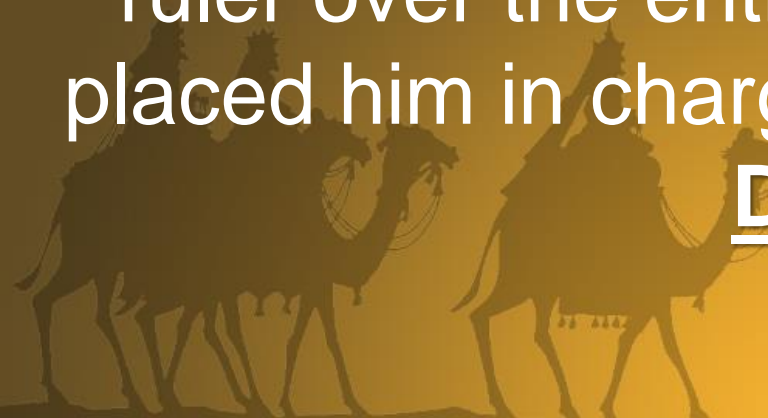


²⁴Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

Daniel 2:24

⁴⁸Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge (**chief**) of all its wise men.

Daniel 2:48







When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to Kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 2:16



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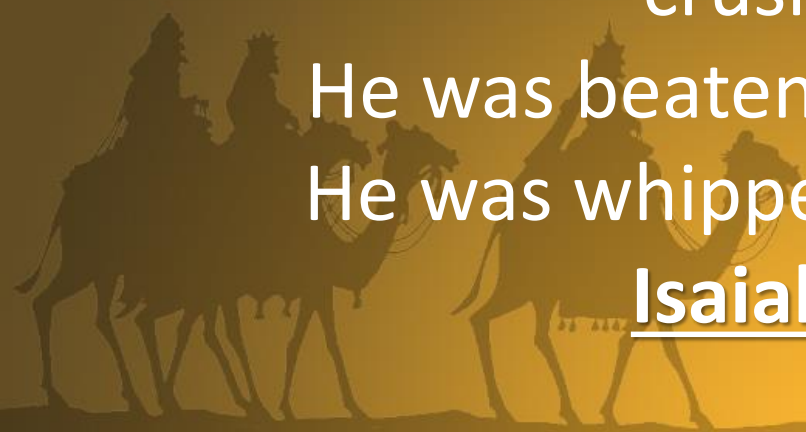
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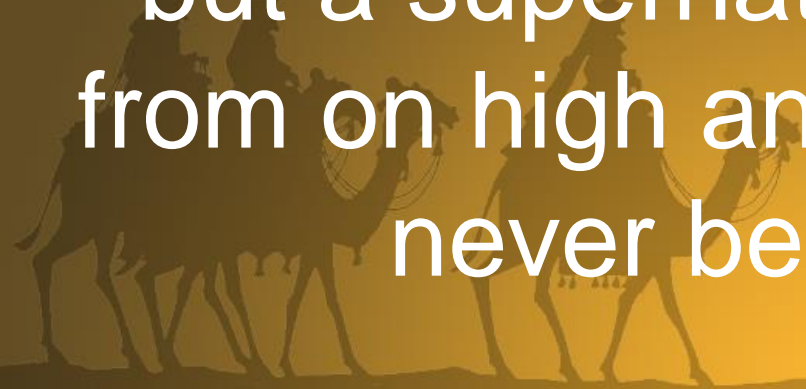
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Isaiah 53:1-5 (NLT)



If you accept the story told in the Bible as the literal truth, then the Christmas star could not have been a natural apparition. Its movement in the sky and its ability to stand above and mark a single building; these would indicate that it was not a normal phenomenon, but a supernatural sign. One given from on high and one that science will never be able to explain.





THE NEAR EAST Possible route of the Magi

3 Gifts and their significance

1. **Gold** valuable commodity fit for a king
2. **Frankincense** used by the priests in the temple
3. **Myrrh** was used to preserve the dead

In those **three** gifts we see who he is,
what he came to do, and what it cost him

