

I am aware the Bible speaks against astrology/astrologers and divination but li want to find out why God used the Magi. Why was the Messiah associated with astrologers?

The Magi came to Jerusalem after discovering a new star in the sky (Matt. 2:1, 2) saying, "We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Mt 2:2.

M.R. Vincent explains who these men were:

Wise men, or Magi (μάγοι). Wycliffe renders kings. A priestly caste among the Persians and Medes, which occupied itself principally with the secrets of nature, astrology, and medicine. Daniel became president of such an order in Babylon (Dan. 2:48). The word became transferred, without distinction of country, to all who had devoted themselves to those sciences, which were, however, frequently accompanied with the practice of magic and jugglery; and, under the form magician, it has come to be naturalized in many of the languages of Europe. Many absurd traditions and guesses respecting these visitors to our Lord's cradle have found their way into popular belief and into Christian art. They were said to be kings, and three in number; they were said to be representatives of the three families of Shem, Ham, and Japhet, and therefore one of them is pictured as an Ethiopian; their names are given as Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior, and their three skulls, said to have been discovered in the twelfth century by Bishop Reinald of Cologne, are exhibited in a priceless casket in the great cathedral of that city.¹

Though the Magi did not know the true and living God², they were God-fearers. They had seen His star in the east and headed toward Jerusalem. It was not until they had been told of the prophesied birthplace of the Messiah³ that they continued on to Bethlehem. The star then re-appeared to guide them the rest of the way.⁴

The Magi must have been surprised to have arrived in Jerusalem to meet religious men who had no idea why they were there.⁵

When men fail to glorify God, he can make a rock praise him if need be.

Luke wrote:

He [Jesus] was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying:

¹ Vincent, M. R. (1887). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 1, pp. 19–20). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

² The Magi practiced the occult, were sorcerers and had abilities of dream interpretation. From their name comes the terms magic and magician.

³ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " Mt 2:5–6.

⁴ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was (Mt 2:9).

⁵ The Magi were despised by Romans and Jews. The first-century BC Jewish philosopher, Philo, called them "vipers" and "scorpions".

“ ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Lk 19:37–40.

Christians of course won’t be out done by unbelieving magicians or rocks so they worship him and watch for his return today.

Jesus said: “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” Mt 25:13.

We are not told how God caused the Magi to know that the King of the Jews had been born. Scripture only reveals that a sign of His star appeared in the east.

Referring to the Magi, John MacArthur wrote:

...Despite their paganism, quasi-science, and superstition they recognized God’s voice when He spoke. Though having had limited spiritual light, they immediately recognized God’s light when it shone on them. They had genuinely seeking hearts, hearts that the Lord promises will never fail to find Him (Jer. 29:13).⁶

Similarly, unbelieving individuals today respond to the minimal light that they’ve been shown. They need one to make the gospel of Jesus Christ clearer for them.

The apostle Paul wrote:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Ro 10:14–15

God uses both righteous and evil men to do his will. Martin Luther said that the devil is God’s devil. Though the devil’s plans for men are evil, God can turn them into good.

Paul wrote: And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Ro 8:28–29).

When one chooses God and his ways, God sees to it that things work out to the utmost for him (Ro 8:28). Conversely, when one chooses Satan and his ways, God sees to it that things work out negatively to the utmost against him (Nu 11:20, Pr 20:17, Ro 1:28, 2 Thess 2:11).⁷

For now, it rains on the just and the unjust (Mt 5:45).

⁶ MacArthur, John. How Did the Magi Know About Jesus? Matthew 2, September 3, 2015: <https://www.gty.org/resources/bible-qna/BQ060812/how-did-the-magi-know-about-jesus>

⁷ Also see: Ga 6:7, Mt 16:26, Heb 11:25, Eccl 1:1, Pr 14:12-14.

Matthew Henry writes:

...[G]ifts of common providence are dispensed indifferently to good and evil, just and unjust; so that we cannot know love and hatred by what is before us, but by what is within us; not by the shining of the sun on our heads, but by the rising of the Sun of Righteousness in our hearts....The worst of men partake of the comforts of this life in common with others, though they abuse them, and fight against God with his own weapons; which is an amazing instance of God's patience and bounty.⁸

The Magi can be commended for responding to the light they'd been given. No doubt, the Holy Spirit revealed more light of truth because of their willingness to move toward God.⁹

⁸ Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume* (p. 1635). Peabody: Hendrickson.

⁹ Also see: "Mt 2:11: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gifts suitable for a king (cf. Is. 60:6). The fact that Gentiles would offer such worship had prophetic significance as well (Ps. 72:10)." MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed., p. 1395). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.