



welcome

thanks for coming













Christmas Offering

December 18, 2022



Behold:

An Obscure Old Testament Prophecy
(Numbers 25:17; Matthew 2:1-12)

Advent 2022 Goals

Behold: *Pay attention to the centrality of Christ's coming in Scripture.*

Behold: *Prioritize Christ's coming during the season.*

Behold: *Pursue a deeper intimacy with Christ through personal engagement with Him and His story.*

Behold: *Put "advent" into your year-round vocabulary.*



Behold:

An Obscure Old Testament Prophecy
(Numbers 25:17; Matthew 2:1-12)

The Magi Come to Jerusalem (2:1-6)

- Magi's Question: *Where do we go to give Him homage? (2:1-2)*
- Herod's Consternation and Question: *Where is He to be born? (2:3-2)*
- The Scribe's Answer: *Scripture says in Bethlehem (2:5-6)*

The Magi Go to Bethlehem (2:7-11)

- Herod's Request: *Tell me. (2:7-8)*
- The Star Guides the Magi (2:9-10)
- The Magi Give Gifts to the Child King (2:11)

The Magi Return Home by Another Route (2:12)

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Herod and the Magi

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star at its rising and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-2





Herod and the Magi

And when King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him, and after calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired from them where the Christ was to be born.

Matthew 2:3-4

Herod and the Magi

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

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you will go out a ruler *(Micah 5:2)*

who will shepherd my people Israel.’” *(2 Samuel 5:2)*

Matthew 2:5

Herod and the Magi

Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and determined precisely from them the time when the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go, inquire carefully concerning the child, and when you have found him, report to me so that I also may come and worship him."

Matthew 2:7-8

Herod and the Magi

After they listened to the king, they went out, and behold, the star which they had seen at its rising led them until it came and stood above the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

The star has been variously explained with reference to natural phenomena (supernova, comet), but the most likely is a supernatural event, possibly similar to the pillar of fire in Exodus (that moved before the Israelites).

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Herod and the Magi

Now when they saw the star, they rejoiced with very great joy. And when they came into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. And opening their treasure boxes, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

Herod and the Magi

And being warned in a dream
not to return to Herod,
they went back to their own country
by another route.

Matthew 2:12

Application

- Is Jesus a threat to your control?
- Is Jesus worth the time to search for Him?
- Is Scripture Guiding you?
- Is Jesus really the object of your worship?

How then did they know to come to Jerusalem? The straight answer is that we do not know, but can only speculate. These types of wise men were diligent to discover what signs and omens meant. And if they had recourse to the holy books of Israel, which they very well could have had in the east since Babylon remained a center of Jewish studies, they might have come across the prophecy of Balaam, an early prophet from the east who had predicted that a star would march forth in Israel (Num. 24:17).

Allen Ross



It may be that they saw the phenomenon, searched their collections of books, talked to various scribes of the different religions, and learned that Israel was the place. If they had inquired about it further, they might have discovered that this one who was to be born would be special, worthy of worship. Then, when they came to Israel, where would they have gone looking for a king but to the palace?

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The Prophecy of the Star

Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.

Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”

Numbers 22:2-4

The Prophecy of the Star

So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to summon **Balaam** son of Beor, **who was at Pethor**, near the Euphrates River, in his native land.

Numbers 22:5-6



The Prophecy of the Star

And he uttered his oracle and said,

“The declaration of Balaam son of Beor,

and the declaration of the man whose eye is closed,
the declaration of the hearer of God’s words,

and the knower of the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees the vision of Shaddai,

who is falling, and his eyes are revealed.

Numbers 24:15-16

The Prophecy of the Star

I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near;
a star will go out from Jacob,
and a scepter will rise from Israel;
it will crush the foreheads of Moab
and destroy all the children of Seth.

Numbers 24:17

Shekinah Glory

Shekinah Glory is a visible manifestation of God on earth, whose presence is portrayed through a natural occurrence. The word shekinah is a Hebrew term meaning “dwelling” or “one who dwells.” Shekinah Glory means “He caused to dwell,” referring to the divine presence of God.

Shekinah Glory

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting,
and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
Moses could not enter the tent of meeting
because the cloud had settled on it,
and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34-35

Shekinah Glory

It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

1 Kings 8:10-11

Shekinah Glory

And then in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, I was sitting in my house, and the elders of Judah were sitting before me. And the hand of the Lord Yahweh fell on me there, and I saw, and look, A figure like the appearance of a man; from the appearance of his waist and below was fire, and from his waist and upward was like the appearance of brightness, DEMO f DEMO like the outward appearance of amber.

Ezekiel 8:1-2

Shekinah Glory

And he sent out the form of a hand, and he took me by a lock of hair of my head, and the Spirit lifted me between earth and heaven, and it brought me to Jerusalem in visions of God to the doorway of the inner gate that faced north, at which there was the seat of the image of jealousy, which was making jealous.

Ezekiel 8:3-4

Shekinah Glory

And he said to me, “Son of man, “Do you see what they are doing—great detestable things that the house of Israel is committing here so as to drive me from my sanctuary, and yet you will see again greater detestable things.”

Ezekiel 8:6

Shekinah Glory

And he brought me to the doorway of the courtyard, and I saw, and look, A hole in the wall. And he said to me, "Son of man, dig now through the wall." And I dug through the wall, and look, There was a doorway.

Ezekiel 8:7-8

Shekinah Glory

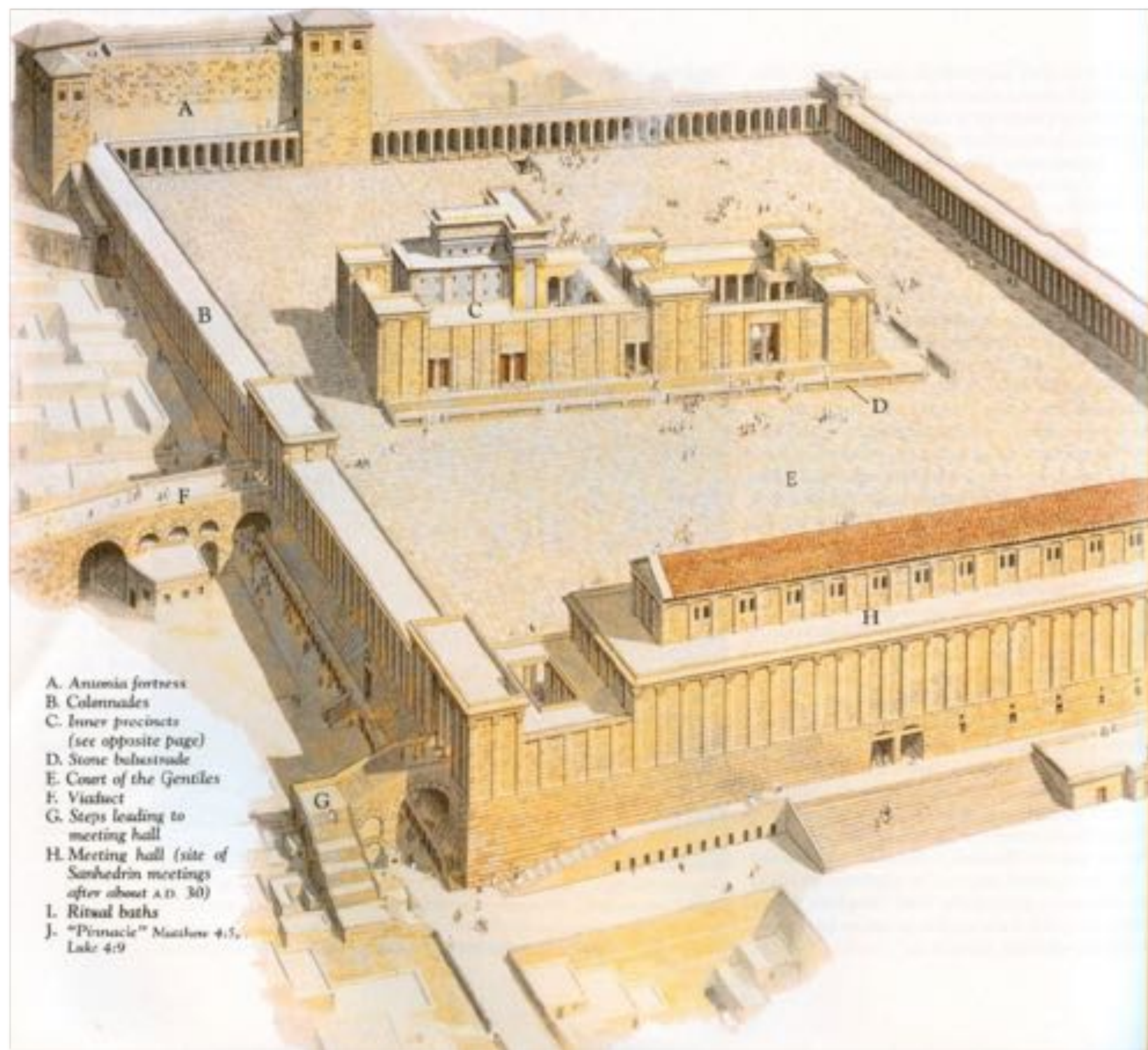
And he said to me, “Come and see the detestable things, the evil that they are doing here. And I came, and I saw, and look, all kinds of creatures and detestable beasts; and all of the idols of the house of Israel were carved on the wall all around.

Ezekiel 8:9-10

Shekinah Glory

Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the Lord rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple.

Ezekiel 10:3-4



- A. Antonia fortress
- B. Colonnades
- C. Inner precincts
(see opposite page)
- D. Stone balustrade
- E. Court of the Gentiles
- F. Viaduct
- G. Steps leading to
meeting hall
- H. Meeting hall (site of
Sanhedrin meetings
after about A.D. 30)
- I. Ritual baths
- J. "Pinnacle" Matthew 4:5,
Luke 4:9

Shekinah Glory

Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. While I watched, the cherubim spread their wings and rose from the ground, and as they went, the wheels went with them. They **stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the Lord's house**, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

Ezekiel 10:18-19

Shekinah Glory

Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, spread their wings, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. The glory of the Lord went up from within the city and **stopped above the mountain east of it**. The Spirit lifted me up and **brought me to the exiles in Babylonia** in the vision given by the Spirit of God.

Ezekiel 11:22-24



Shekinah Glory

After they had heard the king,
they went on their way,
and the star they had seen when it rose
went ahead of them until it stopped
over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

Shekinah Glory

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Shekinah Glory

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Shekinah Glory

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.

May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.

May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

Psalm 72:10-11

Shekinah Glory

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and apart from him not one thing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and **the life was the light of humanity. And the light shines in the darkness,** and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5



Jesus is the light of the world.

Celebrate and share
the light He brings.