



LIBERTY CHURCH EDMOND

Following Christ in Every Area of Life

Matt 2:1-12

- 2** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
- 2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
- 3** When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4** And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
- 5** And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- 6** And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.



7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 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.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.



What Made them Wise?



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Text: Matt. 2:1-12

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The Ancient Near East, 1800 to 1400 B.C.





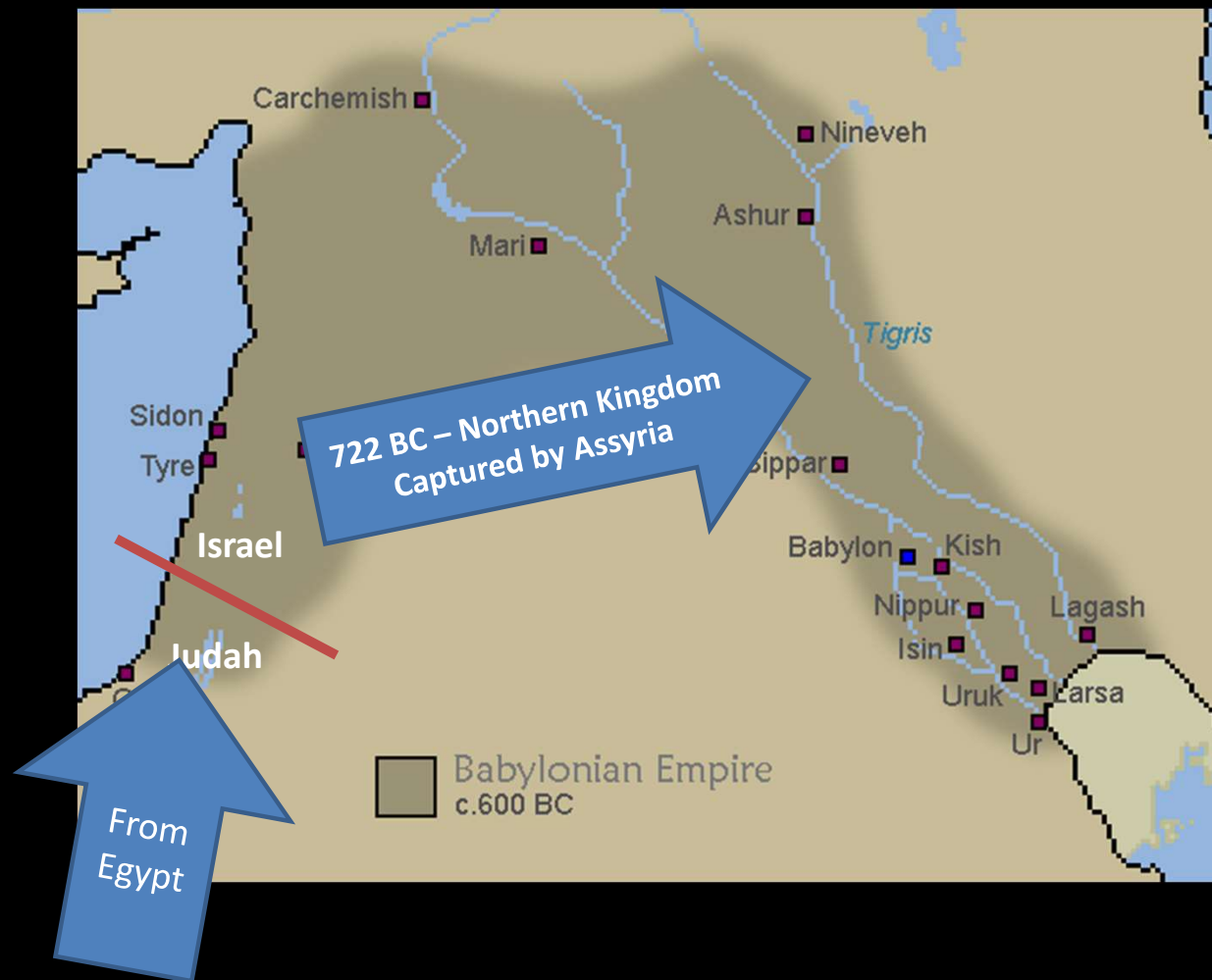
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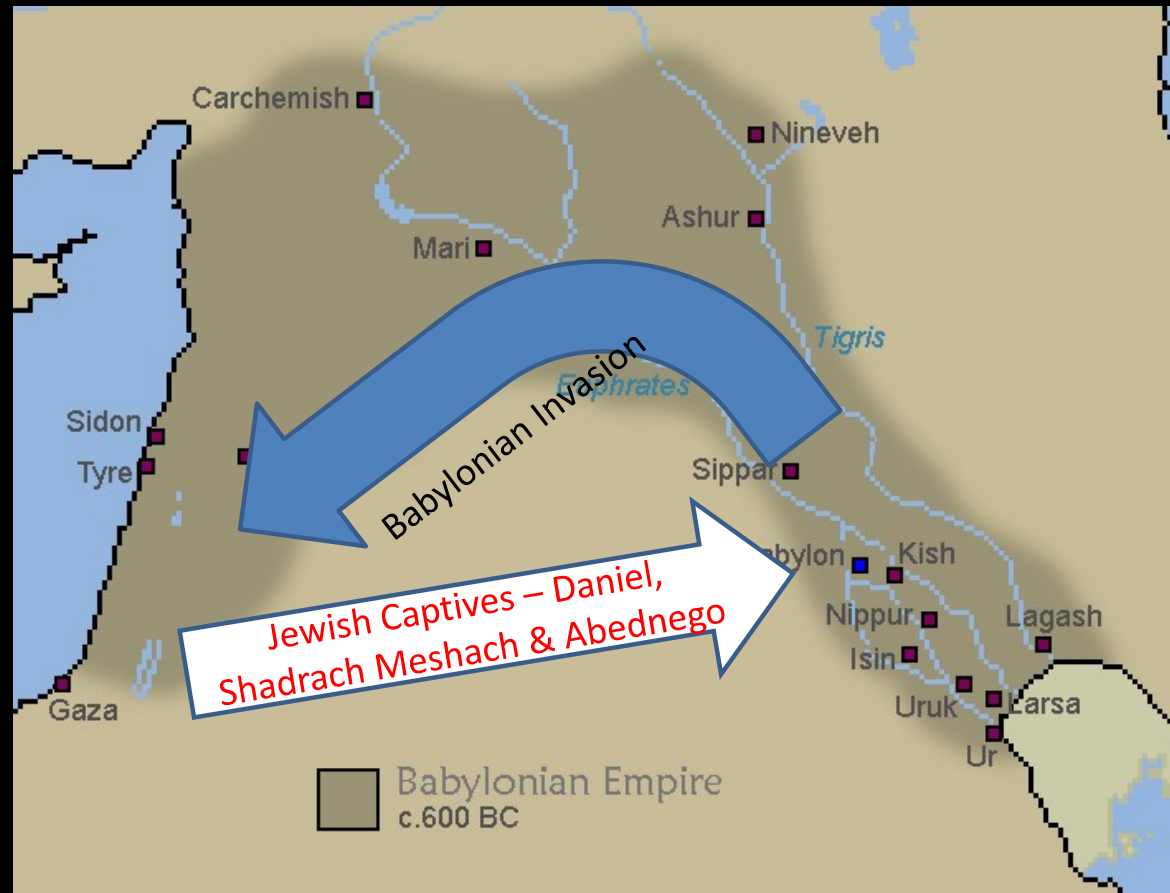
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Paul Blain: What Made Them Wise







Paul Blair - What Made Them Weep

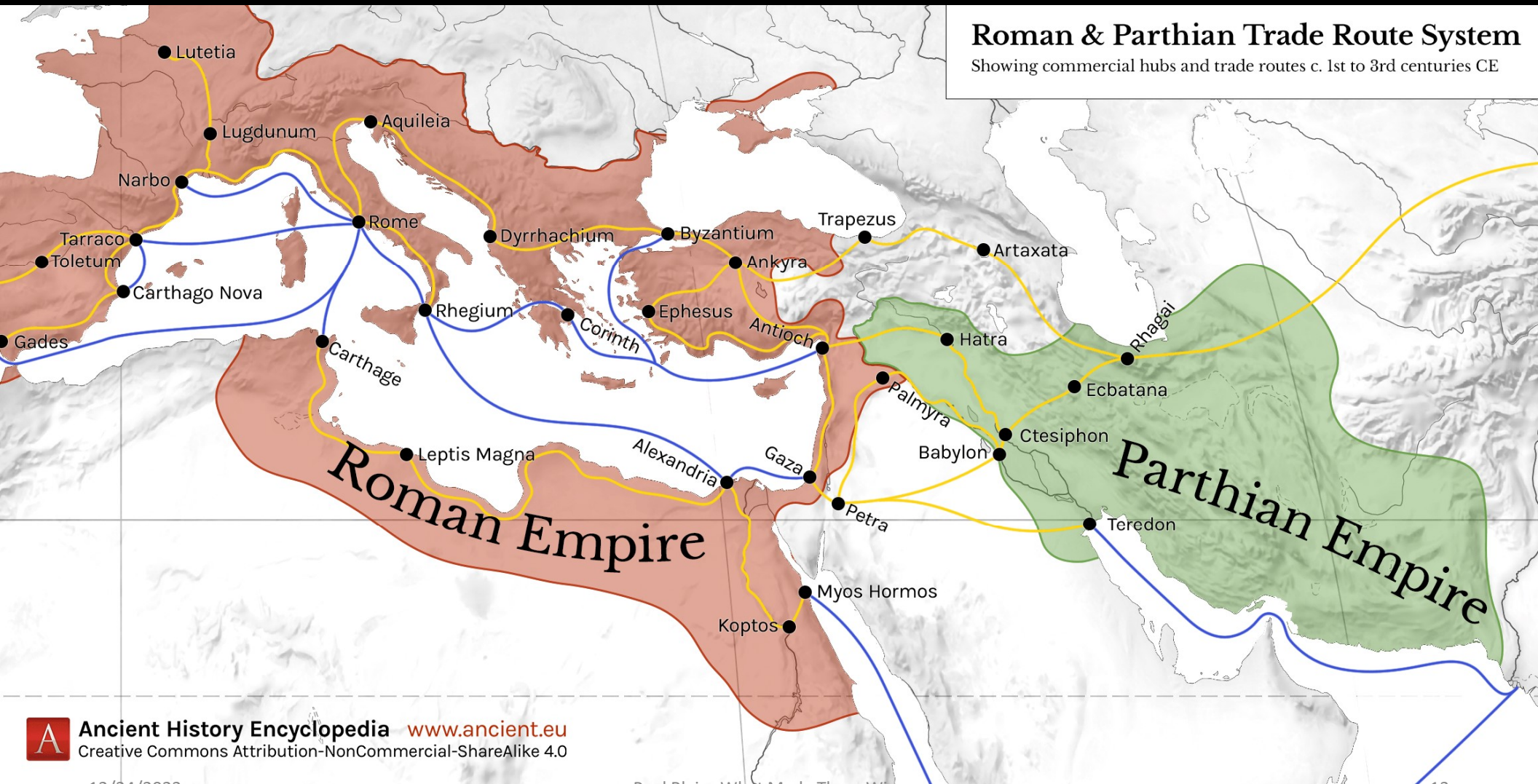


Daniel 5:11

There is a man in thy kingdom...whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made **master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers...**

Roman & Parthian Trade Route System

Showing commercial hubs and trade routes c. 1st to 3rd centuries CE





Daniel 2:47

The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.



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Daniel 3:29

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

15



Daniel 4:37

**Now I Nebuchadnezzar
praise and extol and
honour the King of
heaven, all whose
works are truth, and his
ways judgment: and
those that walk in pride
he is able to abase.**



Num 24:17-19

**I shall see him, but not now: I shall
behold him, but not nigh: there shall
come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre
shall rise out of Israel ... and Israel shall
do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come he
that shall have dominion...**



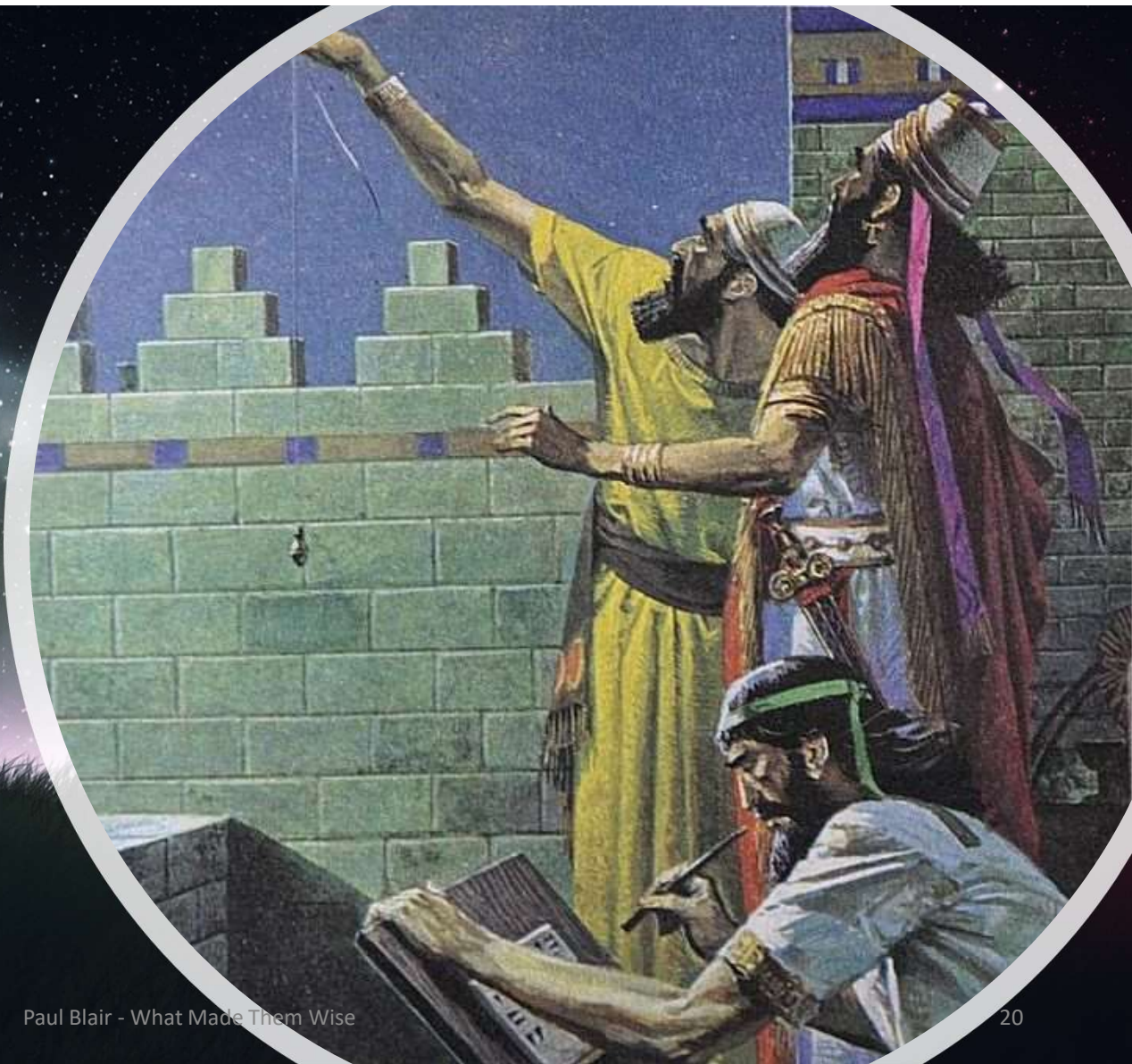
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Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us **a child is born**, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name** shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

⁷ **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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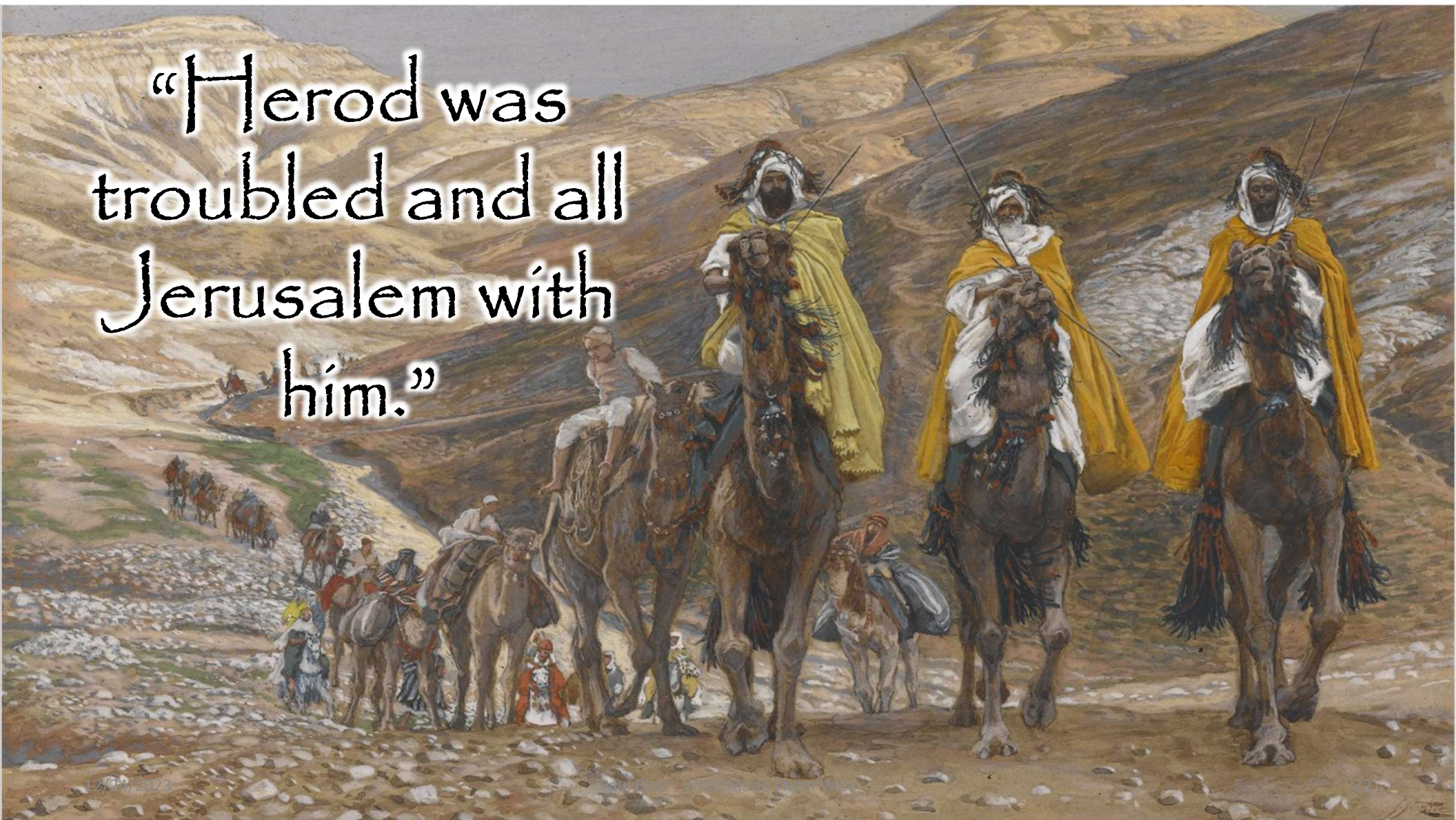


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“Herod was
troubled and all
Jerusalem with
him.”





The prophet Samuel anointed as king both Saul and David and provided counsel.

The Roman Empire 68 BC – 476 AD





**Herod the Great was appointed by the Roman Senate as
“king” over the Jews in 37 BC**

Where is he that
is BORN the
King of the
Jews?



Herod the Great

**Named King of the Jews by
the Roman Senate in 37BC**

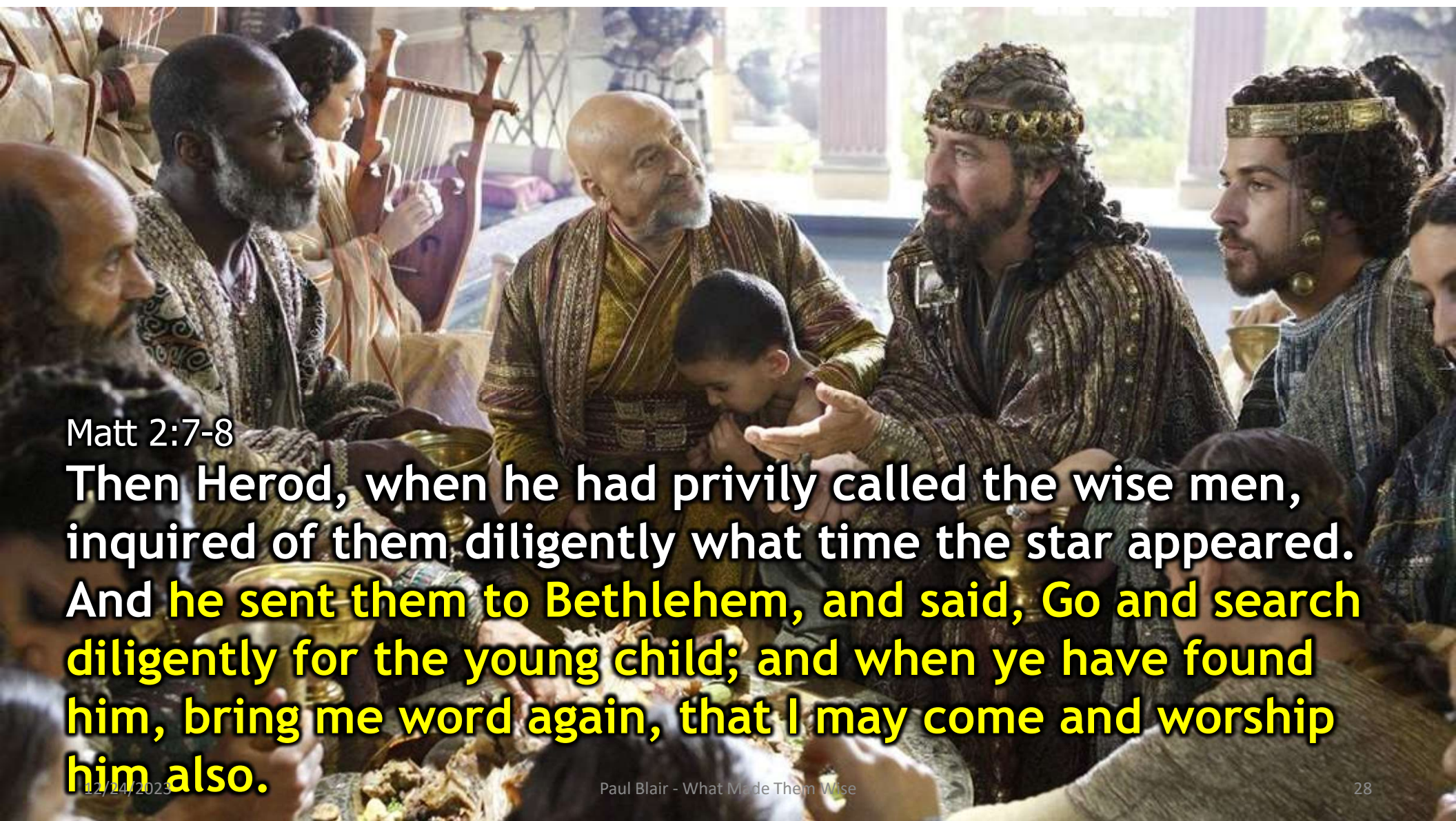


Caesarea Maritime Ruins of the Palace Of Herod the Great

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Matt 2:7-8

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

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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. **When they saw the star,
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And when they were come into
the house, they **saw the young
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and myrrh.

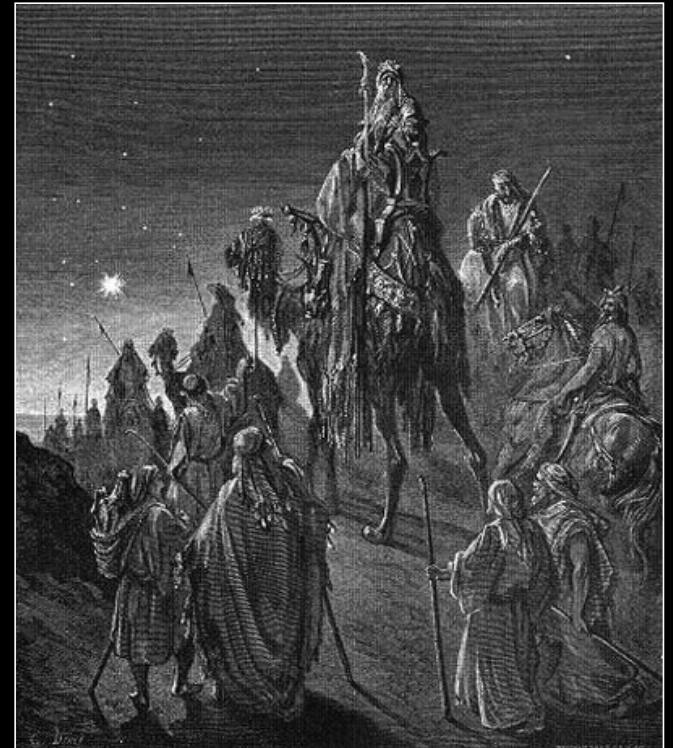


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**And being warned of
God in a dream that they
should not return to
Herod, they departed
into their own country
another way.**



Observations from the Wise Men



1. Wise men, seek truth





"Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about 'man's search for God.' To me, as I then was, they might as well have talked about the mouse's search for the cat."

C.S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*



"You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.... But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance to escape."

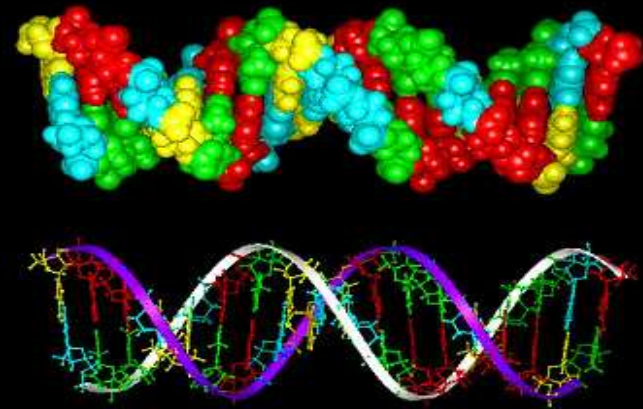
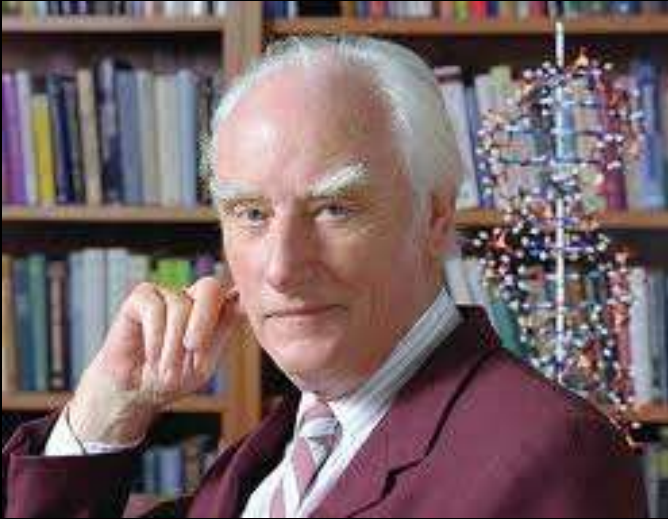
Observations from the Wise Men



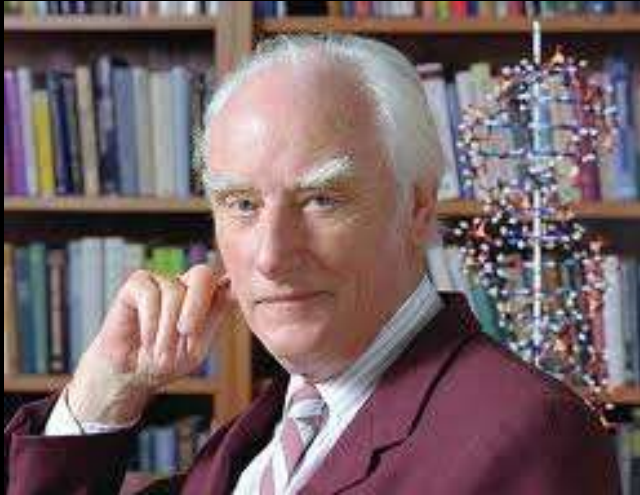
1. Wise men, seek truth
2. **The Heavens Declare the Glory of God**

Ps 19:1-3

**The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament sheweth his
handywork. Day unto day uttereth
speech, and night unto night sheweth
knowledge. There is no speech nor
language, where their voice is not heard.**



‘An *honest* man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a *miracle*, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.’



“Life did not evolve first on Earth; a highly advanced civilization became threatened, so they devised a way to pass on their existence. They genetically-modified their DNA and sent it out from their planet on bacteria or meteorites with the hope that it would collide with another planet. It did, and that’s why we’re here.”

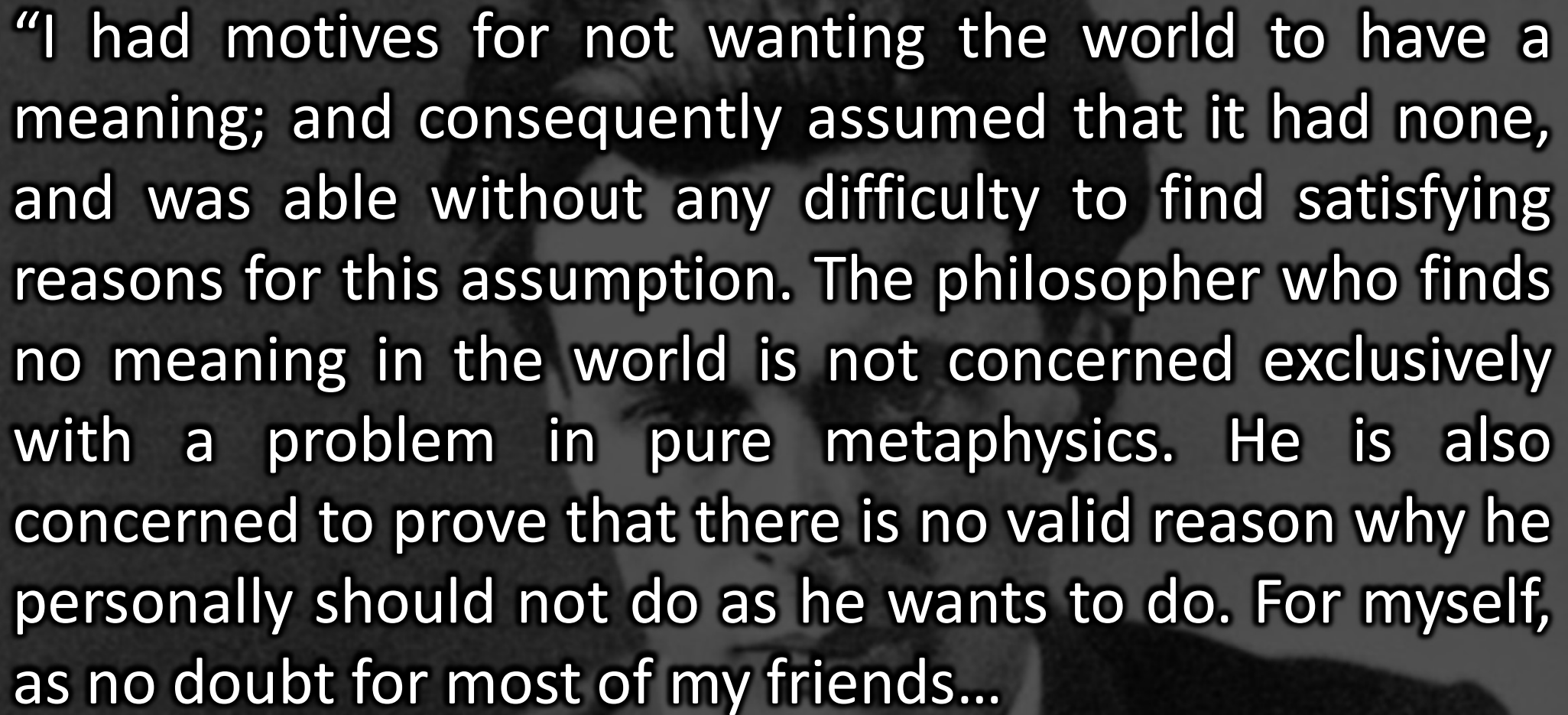




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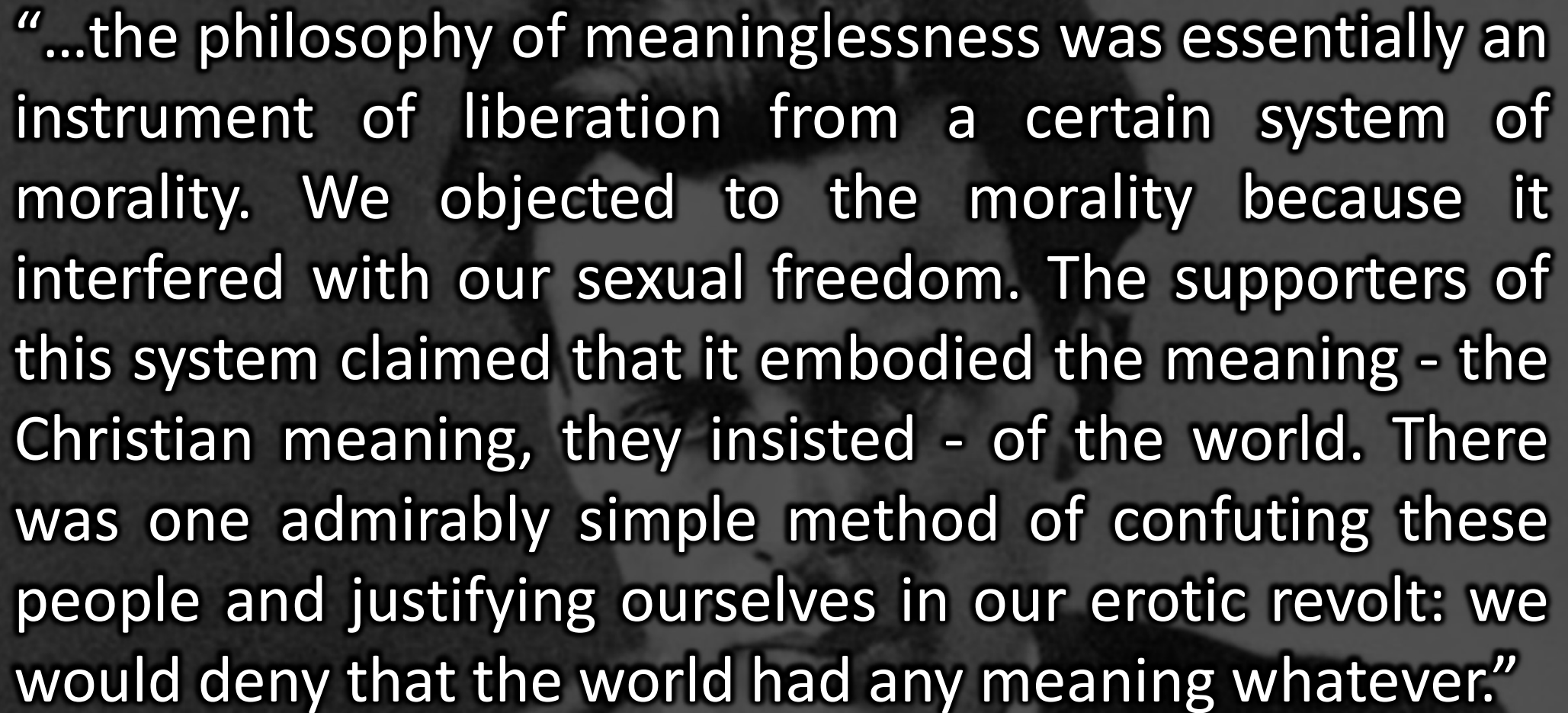
“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; and consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics. He is also concerned to prove that there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do. For myself, as no doubt for most of my friends...

Ways and Means, Aldous Huxley, 1938, P. 270

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“...the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom. The supporters of this system claimed that it embodied the meaning - the Christian meaning, they insisted - of the world. There was one admirably simple method of confuting these people and justifying ourselves in our erotic revolt: we would deny that the world had any meaning whatever.”

Ways and Means, Aldous Huxley, 1938, P. 270

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A night sky with a bright starburst of light in the center, casting a beam of light down to a tent on a hill. The background is dark blue with some stars and a silhouette of a tent on a hill.

John 1:14

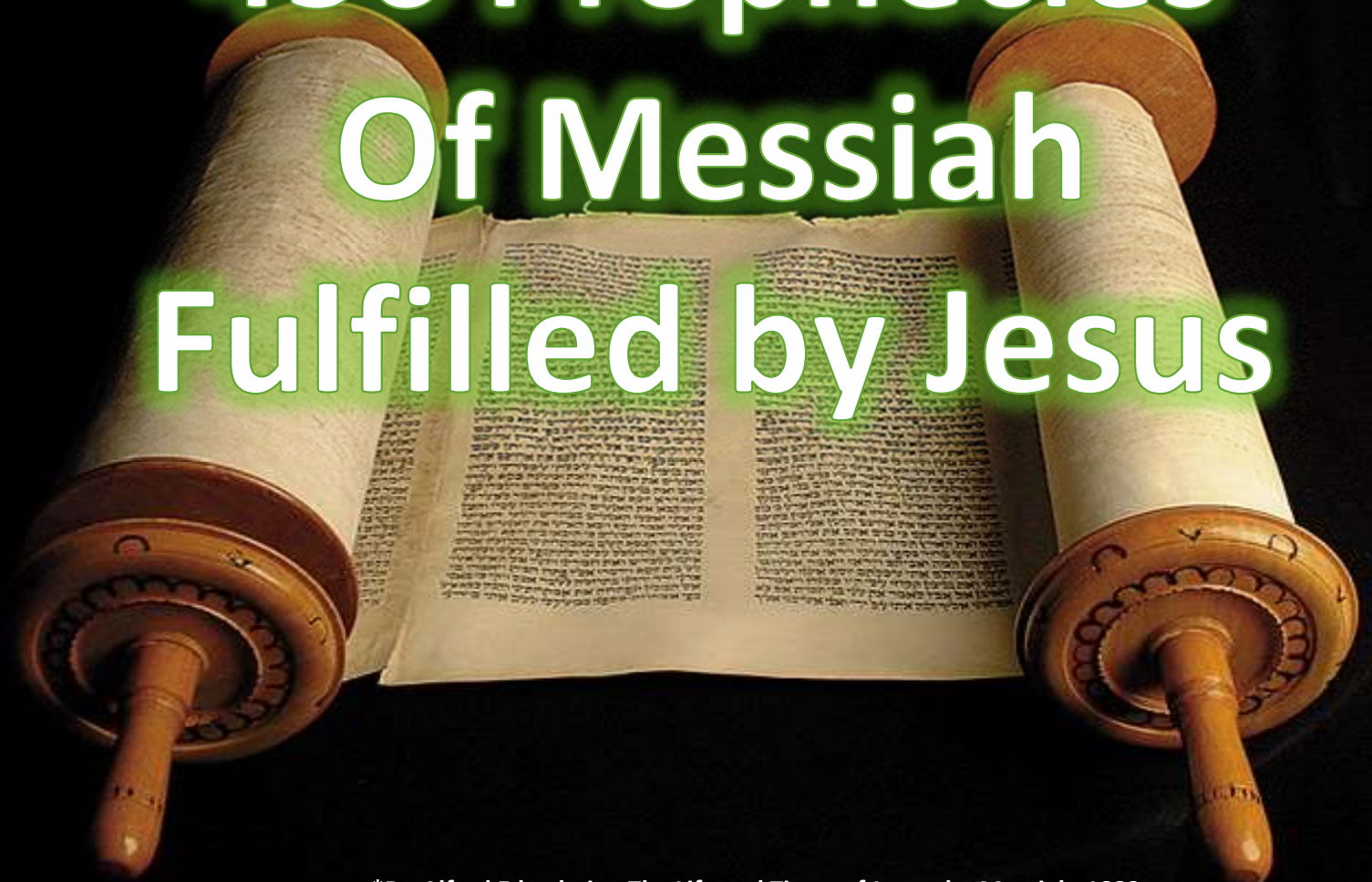
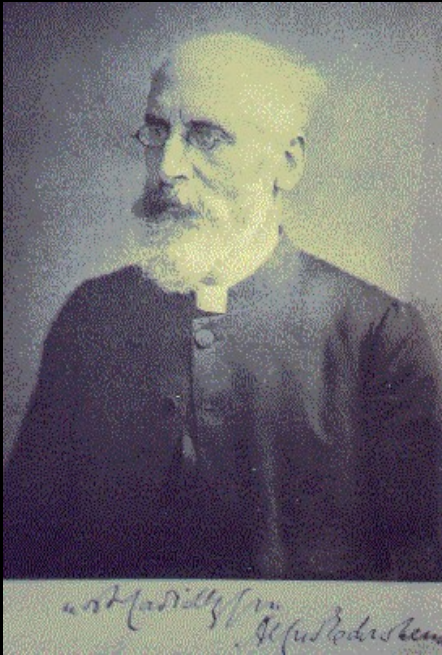
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Observations from the Wise Men



1. Wise men, seek truth
2. The Heavens Declare the Glory of God
3. **Wise Men examine and try the Scriptures**

456 Prophecies Of Messiah Fulfilled by Jesus



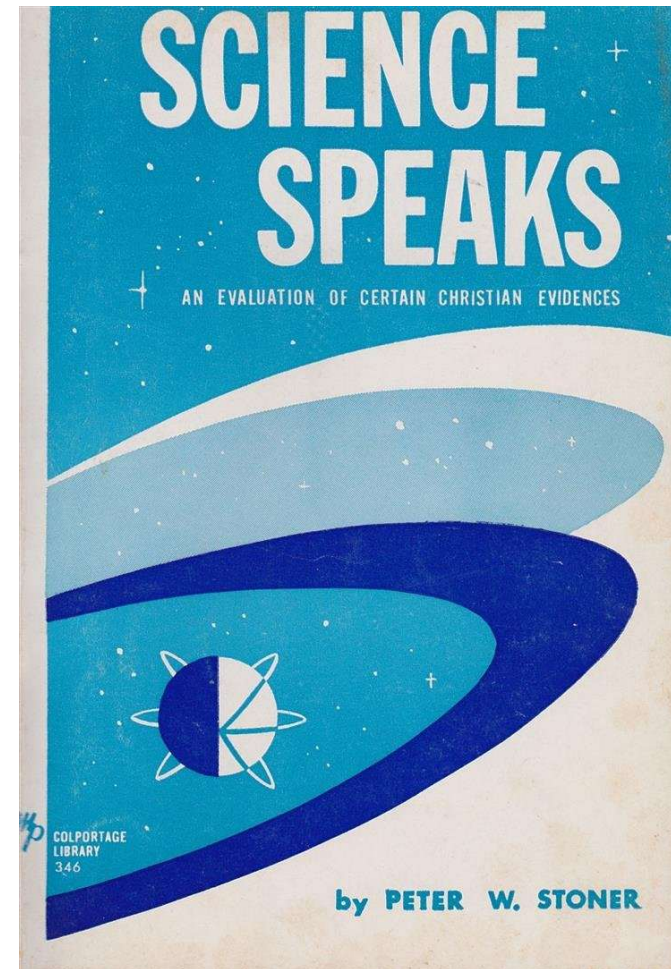
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Paul Blair *Dr. Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, 1883

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Specific Messianic Prophecies

- Betrayed by a friend. (Psalms 41:9; Matthew 26:49).
- Thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15).
- Betrayal money cast to the floor of the temple (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:5).
- Betrayal money used to buy the potter's field (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:7).
- Forsaken and deserted by his disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50).
- Accused by false witnesses (Psalms 35:11; Matthew 26:59-60).
- Silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12).
- Wounded and bruised (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26).
- Hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4; John 15:25).
- Struck and spat upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67).
- Mocked, ridiculed and rejected (Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:27-31 and John 7:5, 48).
- Collapse from weakness (Psalms 109:24-25; Luke 23:26).
- Taunted with specific words (Psalms 22:6-8; Matthew 27:39-43).
- People will shake their heads at Him (Psalms 109:25; Matthew 27:39).
- People will stare at Him (Psalms 22:17; Luke 23:35).
- Executed among "sinners" (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38).
- Hands and feet will be pierced (Psalms 22:16; Luke 23:33).
- Will pray for his persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34).
- Friends and family will stand afar off and watch (Psalms 38:11; Luke 23:49).
- Garments will be divided and won by the casting of lots (Psalms 22:18; John 19:23-24).
- Will thirst (Psalms 69:21; John 19:28).
- Will be given gall and vinegar (Psalms 69:21; Matthew 27:34).
- Will commit Himself to God (Psalms 31:5; Luke 23:46).
- Bones will be left unbroken (Psalms 34:20; John 19:33).
- Heart will rupture (Psalm 22:14; John 19:34).
- Side will be pierced (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34).
- Darkness will come over the land at midday (Amos 8:9; Matthew 27:45).
- Will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
- Will die 438 years after the declaration of Artaxerxes to rebuild the temple in 444 BC (Daniel 9:24).
- Will be raised from the dead (Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:31), ascend to heaven (Psalms 68:18; Acts 1:9) and be seated the right hand of God in full majesty and authority (Psalms 110:1; Hebrews 1:3).



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Dr. Peter Stoner evaluated the odds of these eight prophecies being fulfilled in one man by chance:

1. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
2. A messenger was sent to prepare the way (Malachi 3:1).
3. Made a triumphant entry into Jerusalem as a king riding on a lowly donkey (Zechariah 9:9).
4. Betrayed by a friend that resulted in wounds in the hands (Zechariah 13:6).
5. Price of betrayal was 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).
6. The blood money was used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13).
7. Offered no defense at his trial (Isaiah 53:7).
8. His hands and feet were pierced (Psalm 22:16).

**1 in 100,000,
000,000,000,000**

Dr. Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, 1952



268,601 Square Miles

2 ft.



Odds of:

456
of
456



Observations from the Wise Men



1. Wise men, seek truth
2. The Heavens Declare the Glory of God
3. Wise Men examine and try the Scriptures
4. **When you meet Jesus, it will change your direction**

2 Cor 5:14-15

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.





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Merry Christmas