

Jewish Christmas

“The Bethlehem Candle”



Study Questions

- 1) The story of Christmas could be said to have started over 500 years before Jesus' birth when Daniel was put into headship over the “wisemen” of Babylon. What was the possible sequence that would have caused the three Magi “from the East” to take an interest in a Jewish Messiah?
- 2) What Jewish writings would they have researched?
 - a. What scripture told them that a star over Israel was significant?
Read Numbers 24:17.
 - b. How did they arrive at the knowledge that this was the time of the Messiah?
Read Daniel 9:25.
 - c. What led them to the conclusion that He was divine? Read Isaiah 9:6.
- 3) Read Matthew 2:1-12. Do you think the Magi were there with the shepherds at the birth? Why or why not?
- 4) The Magi gave the gifts they could give—rich gifts. What lesson should we take from this? How did the hearts of the Magi change?
- 5) How does this event at the beginning of the book of Matthew look ahead to the end of the book of Matthew?