

## The Star of Bethlehem

Peter Kirk, November 2004

For thousands of years people have watched the stars and the planets. Special occurrences in the skies have been seen as signs of great events on the earth. We know now that star signs do not control what happens on the earth, although those who write about them may try to control and manipulate us. But sometimes the God who created both the heavens and the earth arranges for earthly events to be marked in the sky.

The Magi had been for centuries the priests and astrologers of Persia. Just over two thousand years ago some of them saw something very special in the sky. No one knows exactly what they saw – there are various theories. But it convinced them that a very special king had been born, and that they must set off on a journey of several months to find him. The child wasn't where they expected him, in the palace of privilege in Jerusalem. But they found him living in obscurity in nearby Bethlehem. And they put their trust in him.

Who do we trust, to tell us the truth and to lead us into the future? Is it our privileged political leaders? Is it the media who manipulate us? Or is it the one whose birth was marked in the heavens, who couldn't be defeated even by death, and who now reigns as heavenly king?

See page 6 for Christmas services at local churches.

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