

**Hope Church** A passion for life

**Carol Service**  
18 December 2016

**We Three Kings**

**MYTHS, MYTHtakes & MYTHunderstandings**

Field and four - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star. Oh, —

www.factinfo

Things we think we know  
[but we don't]

**THREE ?**   **KINGS ??**   **STAR ???**

**We Three Kings**

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

1. We **three kings** of O - ri - ent are: Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far.

Field and four - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der **star**. Oh, —

Refrain

## Things we **think we know** [but we don't]

Matthew 2:11 “Going into the **house** they saw the **child** ..”



## Things we **might know** [but we're not sure]

- “Wise men” = *magi*
  - Babylonian/Persian astrologers/astronomers, later Zoroastrians
  - Established as state religion by Darius the Great (550-486BC)
  - Responsible for approving & crowning all new kings
- Mentioned in the Bible
  - Daniel appointed “*supervisor/president of the magi*” (Daniel 2:48)
- What did Daniel tell them about God’s plan?
  - Were they expecting & looking for God’s anointed one?



## Things we **might know** [but we're not sure]

- *“Following yonder star”*
- **Following?**
  - Matthew 2:2 *“...we have seen his star... we have come”*
  - Matthew 2:9 *“...and behold, the star that they had seen in the East went before them till it came to rest...”*
- **Star?**
  - Planet Jupiter? Or conjunction of Jupiter & Saturn?
  - Comet? Meteor? Miraculously created special star?
  - Something else??

## Remember the shepherds? What did they see?



*“<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified ...<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God...” (Luke 2:9-14)*

## Things we **might know** [but we're not sure]

- Did the wise men see what the shepherds saw?
  - *“...the glory of the Lord shone around them...”*
- *“His star”* = the brightness of his glory?
- God often showed his presence as a shining light

## Things we know for sure

- The wise men **saw** (something)
- They **came** (eventually)
- They **worshipped** (whole-heartedly)

*“We have **seen** his star... and have **come to worship him**” [Lk 2:2]  
*“When they **saw** the star...going into the house...they **worshipped him**” [Lk 2:10]**

- **WHY?** They knew there was a new king
  - *“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews ?”*  
 [Remember their role to approve & crown new kings?]

www.fact.info

## They knew Jesus was a king

- Their response to finding the king:
  - *“They saw the child with Mary his mother and they fell down and worshipped him”*
  - The king-makers made him their king
- They gave royal gifts:
  - Gold
  - Frankincense
  - Myrrh



10  
www.fact.info

## But Jesus was not a typical king

- Yes, gold as tribute to a great king...  
...but also frankincense for worshipping God...  
...and myrrh to mourn a sacrificial death

**Jesus is the king who is also God ...  
... and he was born to die**



## And finally ... what about us?

- Will we be wise men & women this Christmas?
- Have you **seen** something?
  - Sign from God? Pointing the way? Leading to...?
- Will you **come**?
  - Even if the journey is long & takes a while?
- Will you **worship King Jesus**?
  - Give him what he deserves, make him your king

