

Christmas Eve



Services

*3:30 & 5:30 pm*







**Christmas Eve  
Traffic Flow**



# DEEP & WIDE

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

5:30-6:30



# The Whys of Christmas



WHY  
a  
*Star?*













“In 1924 British scholar E.F.F. Bishop journeyed to a Bedouin tribe in Jordan. This Muslim tribe bore the Arabic name *al-Kakabani*, meaning, ‘the ones who follow/study the planets.’ Bishop asked the elders of the tribe why they had such a name. They replied, ‘It is because our ancestors followed the planets to Palestine to show great honor to the great prophet Jesus when he was born.’

Taken aback, Bishop proceeded to show the tribal elders Matthew's account of the the Magi traveling to Jerusalem. Without ever having contact with the New Testament, after reading and hearing the account as recorded by Matthew, the elders responded, 'Yes, that is us, those are our ancestors!'"

K. Bailey



Herod

“I am finding a little bit more every day that there is a little bit of Herod in me, reluctant to step off the throne of my heart, struggling with giving up self sovereignty.”

Mark Buchanan





It is possible to not act on the truth that you possess.





WHY  
a  
*Star?*





# WHY a Star?

## Reason # 1 **Provision**

The gifts from the Magi **financially provided** for Joseph and Mary in the land of Egypt.

Why it matters:

God knows the future, and can provide for your future, so do not let the fears of the unknown win.





God knows your future, and can provide for your future, so do not let the fears of the unknown win.

# WHY a Star?

## Reason # 2 **Passion**

The star was the **method** God chose to **communicate** with **people** in a **distant** land.



Image Landsat / Copernicus  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



28°14'55.75" N 41°49'23.78" E elev 2579 ft eye alt 1764.30 mi



# WHY a Star?

Why it matters:

God's **passion** is for **all peoples** of the world to come into a saving knowledge of His Son Jesus.



“From a Jewish perspective the Magi had paganism pouring out of every pore of their bodies.”

Mark Buchanan







God's **passion** is for **all peoples** of the world to come into a saving knowledge of His Son Jesus. Therefore, as a **church** we must always keep as **our passion** reaching the people of the world.

**“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”**

— JESUS



Statistics consistently show the Church in the Southeast is shrinking faster than any other part of the country. It is safe to say the classic 'Bible belt' days are gone, and what now exists is an entire culture that is **Over Churched** and **Under Reached**. It is a type of **Christianity by culture** rather than conviction.

*Dean Inserra*



WHY a Star?

## Reason # 3 Process

The star the was a consistent  
**source of hope** as the Magi made  
the **LONG journey** west.



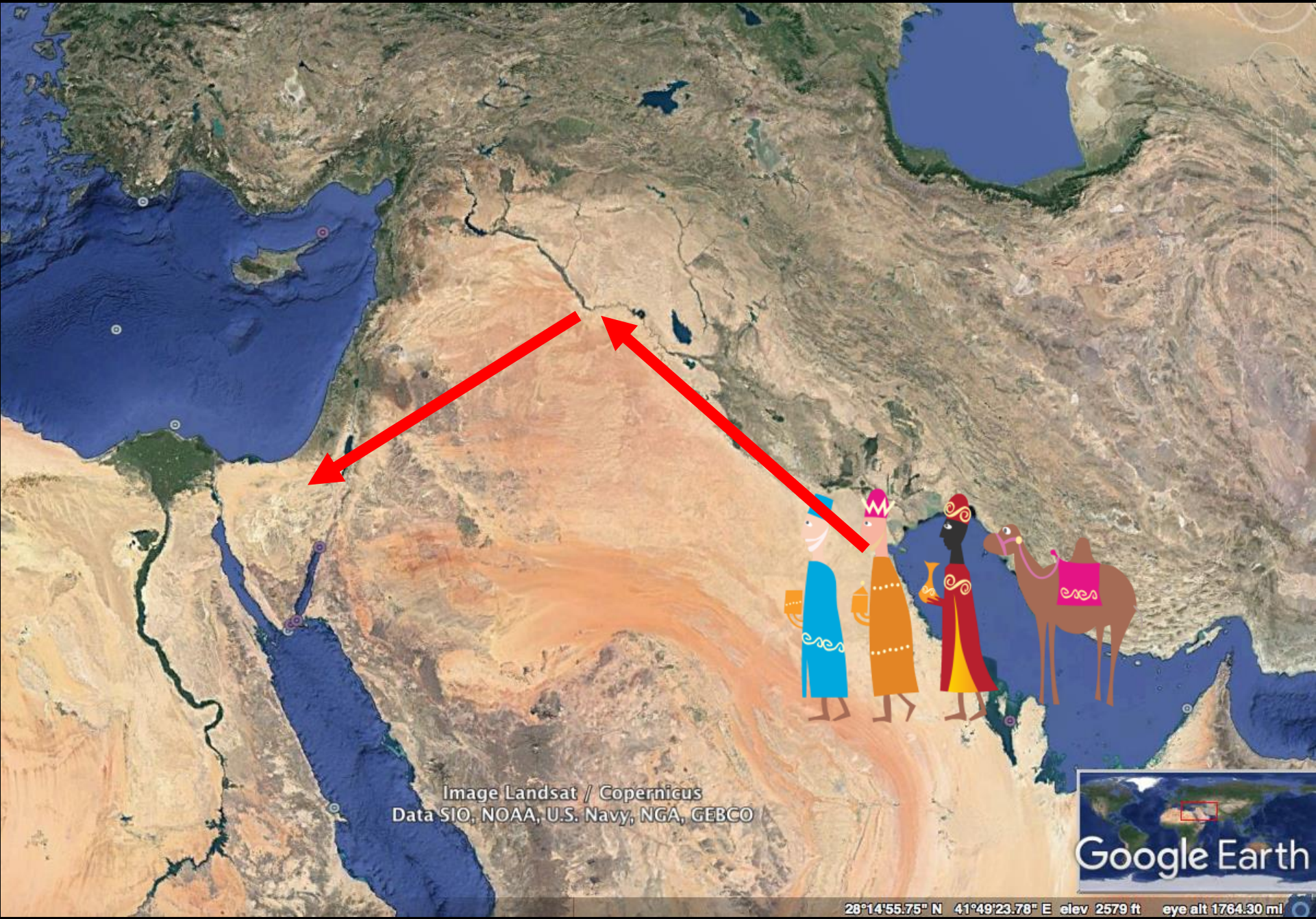


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# WHY a Star?

Why it matters:

Like the shepherds, some people come to Christ **quickly, while** others, like Magi, are on a search for truth and **it takes them a long time.**

More often people will not come to faith quickly. Most are on a 'magi' type journey, filled with questions, obstacles and "what about...". Therefore, we must be a **consistent** "light" that points them to Jesus.

# WHY a Star?

## Reason # 4 Purpose

The star had a purpose it needed to fulfill - to lead the Magi to Jesus!



Why it matters:

Like the star, each **one of us** has a **purpose**- we get to **point** others to Jesus!

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ *Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky* as you hold firmly to the word of life.”

Phil 2:13



*“You are the light of the world...”* -Jesus