

Matthew 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The star's reappearance and movement to stand over Christ's location demonstrates supernatural guidance, not merely natural astronomy. God used extraordinary means to direct the magi to the Savior, showing His sovereign control over creation to accomplish redemptive purposes. The star's precision in identifying the specific house illustrates God's particular providence, not just general oversight.

Historical Context

The nature of the star (supernatural phenomenon, conjunction of planets, or angel) is debated, but its providential timing and movement are clear. The magi likely arrived months after Christ's birth, when the family had moved to a house (verse 11).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of the star demonstrate His sovereign control over creation for redemptive purposes?
2. In what ways does God providentially guide His people today, even if through less dramatic means?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν καὶ
G3588 When they had heard G3588 the king they departed and
G1161 G191 G935 G4198 G2532

ἰδοὺ, ὁ ἀστήρ ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ προῆγεν
lo G3588 the star which they saw in G3588 the east went before
G2400 G792 G3739 G1492 G1722 G395 G4254

αὐτοὺς ἕως ἐλθὼν ἔστη ἐπάνω οὗ ἣν τὸ
them till it came and stood over where was G3588
G846 G2193 G2064 G2476 G1883 G3757 G2258

παιδίον
the young child
G3813

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 2:2 (Kingdom): 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.

2 Peter 1:19 (Parallel theme): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Psalms 25:12 (Parallel theme): What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Proverbs 8:17 (Parallel theme): I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

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