

**The Promise**  
**Part 4: The Star**  
December 18, 2022

*I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.... A ruler will rise in Jacob.*  
Numbers 24:17-19 (New Living Translation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)

*About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."*  
Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT2)

*Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.*  
Matthew 2:2 (NLT2)

*King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"*  
Matthew 2:3-4 (NLT2)

*In Bethlehem in Judea.... for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'*  
Matthew 2:5-6 (NLT2)

## 1.) Don't ignore God's direction, listen to wise counsel!

*I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.... [SO...] "When [you] cry for help, I will not answer. Though [you] anxiously search for me, [you] will not find me.*  
Proverbs 1:24-28 (NLT2)

*Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!*  
Matthew 2:8 (NLT2)

## 2.) Don't rebel, give your desires over to Jesus.

*Remember.... "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled."*  
Hebrews 3:15 (NLT2)

## 3.) Don't give up when it get's tough, keep following God's direction.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT2)

## 4.) Don't close your mind to God's voice, open your Bible and start to read!

- **God's Biblical direction for small annoyances:**

*Make allowance for each other.... and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*  
Colossians 3:13 (NLT2)

- **God's Biblical direction for deep pain:**

*Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*  
Matthew 11:28 (NLT2)

- **God's Biblical direction for strength to stand up to temptation:**

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy!*  
Jude 1:24 (English Standard Version)



**BCF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**  
**Sunday, December 18th at 4PM — Worship Center**  
**Topics include: Adoption of 2023 Ministry Plan**