

“The Bethlehem Star”

Matthew 2:1 wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

The Sunday before Christmas our Sunday School lesson was about Matthew's Christmas Star and the Magi.

I told the class that, in my opinion, God placed that star into being at creation and timed it to appear as it did and as it was described.

Maybe, as they say, I should not have "gone there" - - because then one curious student queried the class and me - -

"Whatever happened to the Bethlehem star?"

There is a current public service announcement running on the television cable channels in our area for Medicare. In the ad, a woman is calling her friend to find out how to get information about her Medicare benefits. All throughout the advertisement are things in the woman's home - - all in plain view - - on her table, on her milk carton, on cans in her cupboard, on her daughters shirt, on a truck driving by and on the front page of her newspaper that all say "Call 1-800-MEDICARE". Of course her friend on the telephone tells her to call 1-800-MEDICARE.

The point of the advertisement is, how in the world, with all those things pointing her to the answer - - did she miss them.

Will we miss the message of the Bethlehem Star the same way?

From the time of creation on God has been sending us signs pointing the way! In the Torah and Prophets of the Old Testament we are told that "His name shall be called Emmanuel!"

From the New Testament gospels and writings of Paul we are pointed to "The Way!"

The Bethlehem Star pointed the way for the Magi - - Matthew says that they followed it very carefully until it stopped over the place where Jesus was!

How many signs and wonders do we need?

Have you shared your story of how you found the Star of Bethlehem?

If someone misses all the signs can you point the way? Will you?

Does that wonderful, perfect star, pointing to Jesus, now reside in you?

*O, star of wonder, star of might,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light.*