

# WHEN GOD STEPS IN

## Christ in Our Longings

*<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:1,2)*

**"Thou has made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." (St. Augustine)**

"While searching for the divine has been somewhat crowded out in modern times by our busy and overstimulated lives, it is still one of the most universal of human strivings. . . . Could it be that this longing for the sacred, a universal and puzzling aspect of human experience, may not be wish fulfillment but rather a pointer toward something beyond us? Why do we have a "God-shaped vacuum" in our hearts and minds unless it is meant to be filled?"

(Francis Collins, geneticist)

**Those ancient, contemporary seekers . . .**

▶ **They considered the evidence**

*"We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2b)*

*<sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)*

"While impossible to quantify, a surprising number of prominent British researchers at the pinnacle of their fields, with worldwide reputations in the physical and biological sciences, proclaim their evangelical Christian faith.

. . . First, they say the likelihood that intelligent, carbon-based life originated in the universe by chance is infinitesimally minute. And second, they proclaim their belief in what they accept as the first-hand, biblical accounts of Jesus' life, death and physical resurrection." (Mark Pinsky, journalist)

- ▶ They **listened** to the **Scriptures**
  - **Matthew 2:3-5**

<sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” (Matthew 2:6)

<sup>29</sup>Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. (Matthew 22:29)

- ▶ They were **willing** to **worship** Jesus

<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:10,11)

"If people have no objective values to direct their lives, they often demand idols for their wills. People usually live for something, whether it is achieving respect, making money or being successful; and it may control their lives."  
(Jerram Barrs, Francis Schaeffer Institute)

"The most important discovery of my life was my discovery of Jesus Christ."  
(Henry F. Schaefer, physical chemist)

## Jesus . . .

<sup>24</sup>“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

<sup>37</sup>On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”  
(John 7:37,38)

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious . . .

<sup>22</sup>**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . .** (Galatians 5:19a,22a)