



One of the ESPN *30 for 30* films showcases the life of Chucky Mullins—a football player for Ole Miss University. During an October homecoming game against Vanderbilt, Chucky made a headfirst tackle shattering four vertebrae and this instantly paralyzed him from the neck down. Chucky would never walk again. Less than two years later, he died from the complications of his injury.

While the injury was devastating, the way he lived after the injury was inspiring. He never quit, he got an ambulance to take him to the team’s bowl game a couple of months after his injury so that he could be there for them. He vowed to walk again and never stopped.

Before his death, he regained the ability to move one hand. He also went back to school to finish his degree. He never gave up. Chuck was a man of faith. His documentary talks about his faith and how it would drive him beyond victimization. He stayed positive and fought to walk all the way until his death. Chucky could be called a wise man. He came from humble beginnings, barely got a scholarship, but was named wise because he saw the need to go back and finish school after his accident so that he could continue to live his life.

There were several people in the Bible who were considered wise:

- Enoch and Noah were wise enough to walk with God.
- Ruth was wise enough to say to her Jewish mother in law, “Where you will go, I will go, your people will be my people, and your God, my God.” (Ruth 1:16-17)
- David was wise enough to say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1)
- Martha was wise enough to entertain Jesus in her home.

- Mary, Martha's sister, was wise enough to sit at His feet and hear His word.

And of course, as we think about the Christmas season, we can't ignore the "wise men", who were wise enough to follow a star.

Today, let's look at the story of the wise men. They are also referred to as magi, or kings. Whatever their names, we know they came from the East, probably Babylonia or somewhere in the area. They were astrologers, who studied the stars. They were familiar with the night skies and would have noticed a peculiar star. A star with a purpose; to show them the way to Christ, and fulfilling Balaam's word found in Numbers 24:17, where he said, "A star will come out of Jacob."

Why did they come, what drove them to seek this out, and why did they respond the way they did to the Christ child?

### **1. Why did they come?**

The Magi had access to Jewish Scripture. Remember that the Jewish people were captives in Babylon for hundreds of years. Even after they were allowed to return to Jerusalem, many of them stayed behind because of family, business interests, or for other reasons.

Because many of the Jewish people stayed behind, their religious culture was there as well. These Magi had access to Jewish customs and Scriptures. They had access to Daniel's and Isaiah's writings and the early Old Testament writings as well. They would have studied these Scriptures, and heard stories passed down through the ages about the Messiah. When some of these Scriptures started playing out, I'm sure their curiosity got the best of them!

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