

The magi came from afar to do homage to the newborn king. We do not have to go far to do homage to the Lord. We may have our own prayer room, or place to pray. We have Him present in perpetual adoration. We have Him present in our very being. It is up to us regularly to recognize His presence and praise, thank and worship Him as best we can.

As long as the Magi followed the star, they were on the right track but it seems they lost the star when they assumed the new born King of the Jews had to be born in the regal city of Jerusalem. When they set out for Bethlehem the star reappeared to guide them to the exact location where the child, Jesus, the new born king, was to be found.

As long as we follow the regular inspirations of the Lord we will stay on the right track. When we assume or presume to follow our own desires rather than to seek the Lord's way, we have a lot to lose.

It would seem that the Magi travelled approximately two years. Or perhaps Herod wanted to make sure the new born king would be included in the murder of all those 2 years old or younger. Or perhaps the star that the Magi saw was visible before they set out since they had to determine the reason for such a bright leading star.

If the star was first visible at the birth of Jesus, then certainly when the Magi arrived, Mary Joseph and Jesus were most probably no longer in a stable but in a house. This is confirmed by the Gospel narrative. "And upon entering the **house** (emphasis mine) they saw the child with His mother." Notice also that scripture says that they saw the **child** – not the baby.

The Epiphany means "manifestation". There are other manifestations of Jesus noted in the Gospels. Jesus was manifested to the shepherds tending their sheep. He was manifested brilliantly to the chosen three on the Mountain at His Transfiguration.

But the manifestations of the Lord are not limited to the time of His life on earth. We can see Him manifested in those who need our help or our compassion. The more one seeks Him the more He can be and is manifested.

May you like the Magi seek the Lord diligently even at the cost of time and talent – even if it takes sacrifice and suffering – even if it takes years! The Lord is forever present. Seek Him diligently.