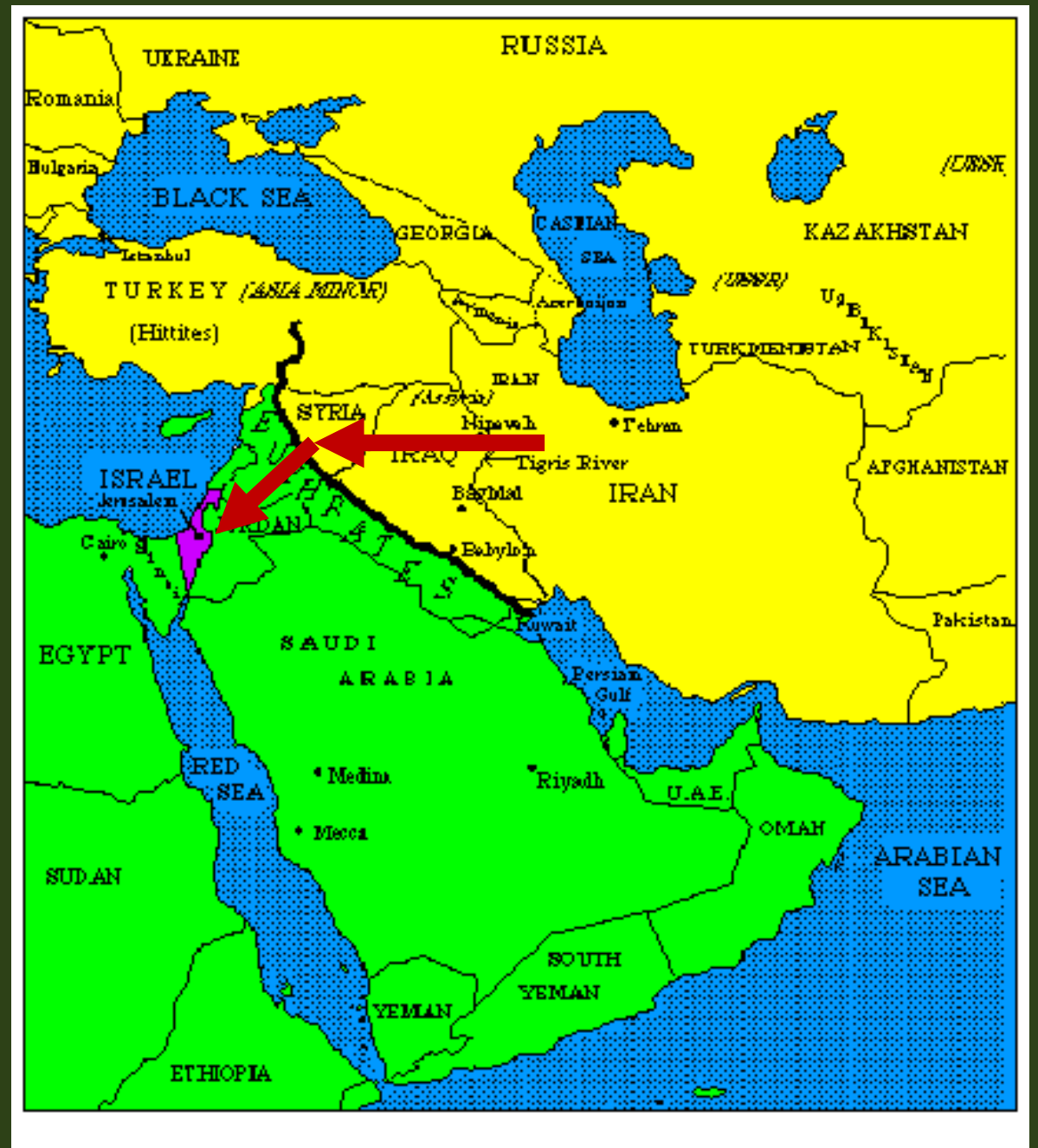




Surprised by God
Matt 2:1-12

Start point –
Iran (Persia) to
Jerusalem --
1,430 mi.





1. *The magi were not following a star – **they were seeking a King.***

Matt 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we **saw His star in the east** and have come to **worship Him.**"

- *You cannot know God's will for your life wo seeking the God who willed it.*



Jer 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a **righteous Branch**, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall **execute justice and righteousness in the land.**



2. *Jesus was born to save broken people in a broken world. **Who would have thought God would reach this far?***

- A. *Wise men from the **East**. 2:1-2*
- B. ***Apathetic** religious leaders 2:4*
- C. ***Herod the Great** (Half-jew, king of Israel, appointed by Romans; **paranoid** and powerful)*



Herod's relatives in Scripture:

- *Antipas, son of the Great. Mark 6:24 (John Baptist beheaded);*
- *Antipas, Christ's humiliation, Luke 23:11;*
- *Agrippa 1, g-son of the Great. Acts 12:2 (James beheaded)*
- *Agrippa 2, great g-son, Acts 26:28 (almost persuaded to Christ);*



*Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song with these words: "You are **worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it.** For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from **every tribe and language and people and nation.** (NLT)*



3. *When we take a step of faith, God will give us a **reason to keep stepping** and **enough light** to move our feet.*

- A. 2:1-2. *The star appears in East*
 - *The star then **disappears**.*
- B. 2:1 *Arrive in Jerusalem.*
- C. 2:9-10. *The star **reappears**.*
- D. 2:9. *It stands **over the house***



4. *God must want us to find him. He gives us a **personal reason** to come and see.*

- ***Magi** - a star with a meaning.*
- ***Herod** – peers who were going. Intellectuals, scientists, wealthy and prestigious, advisers to kings.*
- ***Religionists.** Fulfillment of prophecy.*

Key points.

- 1. The magi were not following a star. They were seeking a King. [You cannot know God's will without seeking the God who willed it.]*
- 2. Jesus was born to save broken people in a broken world. Who would have thought God would reach this far?*
- 4. When we take a step of faith, God will give us a reason to keep on stepping and enough light to move our feet.*
- 5. God must want us to find him. He gives us a personal reason to come and see.*