tions which were not descendants of Israel. We first find them on a long journey in an effort to welcome this long awaited Messiah.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

(Matthew 2:1-2)

Are you one who has heard about Christ so often that you tend to ignore Him? Or have you, like the unlikely travelers of old, sought and followed Him and asked Him to be your Savior?

## UNLIKELY

## TRAVELLERS

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Shortly after Adam and Eve sinned, God began repeatedly declaring the coming of one who would die for sinners. He would be God in the flesh and would be called the Messiah. His coming would deliver a final, irrevocable, condemnation of Satan, who had tempted man to sin. God had informed the devil of his final demise at the Messiah's hand. This would occur millennia in the future.

"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:14-15)

Throughout the millennia, God presented many pictures of the Messiah whose blood would be offered to pay sin's penalty.

Three of many examples of this are:

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Three of many examples of this are:

1. Shortly after Adam and Eve sinned, God killed animals and used their skins to clothe

Adam and Eve's nakedness.

- 2. Later, Adam and Eve's son, Able, offered a blood sacrifice.
- 3. Still later, when the Israelites were preparing to escape from Egypt, blood of a Passover lamb was sprinkled on the lintel and doorposts of each Israelite household. This marking of blood caused God's destroying angel to skip that household as he passed through the land. However, the destroying angel killed the firstborn of each Egyptian household not so marked.

Since then, millennia had passed and God was now showing that the long awaited Messiah had come. God placed a special star in the sky which some travelers had decided to follow in order to see this long awaited Messiah.

Herein lies the surprise. Though this Messiah would come through the nation of Israel, Israel's religious leaders seemed oblivious and even opposed to it. In fact, after Jesus, the Messiah, was born, they ultimately would become some of His greatest enemies. They would even be instrumental in His death. The people who first saw and followed the star were from pagan na-

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