

THE DIVIDING LINE

Pastor Ken Ritz * December 24, 2017 * New Life Vineyard

Matthew 2:1-9

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"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."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

We all experience "dividing lines" in our lives:

- before/after marriage
- before/after kids
- before/after change of career.

The ultimate dividing line in all history was represented by a star stopping over a stable.

Have you crossed that dividing line?

Luke 23:44-45

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Jesus was born to call you to cross the dividing line, and then he died to make a bridge across the dividing line.

- The cross is the bridge.
- What the star started, the cross finished.