

January 05 | Sunday

Annus Mirabilis 1666: Discovery

Read: Matthew 2:1-15 / Genesis 28:10-22



06 | Mon – Life-changing discoveries | Read: [Matthew 2:1-2 and 8-11](#)

Annus Mirabilis is a Latin term meaning 'year of wonders' and was reportedly first used to describe 1666, in light of Sir Isaac Newton's revolutionary scientific discoveries of that year. Hundreds of years earlier, the Magi were on their own journey of discovery. Although their trip was long, possibly up to two years, they did not give up and their reward was to see the face of God's son. What do you hope to discover in this new year?

07 | Tue – Knowing about God is not enough | Read: [Genesis 28:10-22](#)

Another famous journey happened when family problems forced Jacob to travel to his uncle's home several hundred miles to the east. On the way, he had an unexpected meeting with the God of his father and Jacob's intellectual knowledge about God sprang to life. What was said in that encounter changed his life. Have you ever had an experience that resulted in a new discovery about the God you claim? How did it change you?

08 | Wed – Pulled up short | Read: [Acts 9:1-5 and 26-27](#)

Paul's journey began with the purpose of terrorizing Jewish followers of Jesus into rejecting the heretic and his teachings but it ended in a shocking encounter with the 'heretic' himself that flattened Paul, literally. The result was a 180-degree reversal; the persecutor became the promoter whose life story and writings still impact people today. Where is *your* life heading in this new year? Do your goals match your values?

09 | Thu – Even in the unexpected... | Read: [Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23](#) / [Romans 8:28](#)

Maybe you are on a journey you did not choose, like Joseph and Mary. Imagine that, instead of going home with your new baby, you are forced to flee the country to save his life. We do not know what happened during their stay in Egypt but we do know it was part of God's plan for this family. They were surrounded by God's care and they eventually returned to their homeland at just the right time. What good might come out of any unexpected journey you may find yourself on?

10 | Fri – Tempted to give up? | Read: [1 Kings 19:1-8](#)

Elijah was a national hero having single handedly, or so he thought, turned the nation back to God. Then he got the death threat and became a fugitive on the run. Collapsing in exhaustion, he gave up - the journey was too much. This is when God showed his compassion, providing for Elijah's physical needs. But in v. 9-18, God also revealed HIMSELF and Elijah knew he could go on. How might this apply to the times when you feel like giving up?

11 | Sat – Keeping what you learn | Read: [Numbers 33:1-2](#)

When the Almighty God brought the Jews out of slavery, their path to freedom was not easy. In fact, there were detours and disobedience and outright rebellion before God's promise was fulfilled. Moses was told to record their history as a reminder of what they had learned about God and about themselves. What about you? Do you think jotting down things you discover might help you to remember them in the future? Why not try it this year and see?