

## CHASING STARLIGHT

by SCOTT CRAIN

**GENRE:** Dramatic Monologue

**SYNOPSIS:** A wise man from the East tells of the discovery of a new star, and the excitement and fear that followed.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** A spotlight could be used (if available) to keep Zophar in a small pool of light on stage to heighten the sense of isolation.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Christmas, Biblical Times

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 2:1-12

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Christmas Service

**CHARACTERS:**  
ZIMRI

**PROPS:** A parchment

**COSTUMES:** Biblical attire

**SOUND:** One wireless microphone

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Unspecified

### Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com  
www.DramaMinistry.com  
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*Lights up on ZOPHAR—a wise man of the East. In his hand is a yellowed parchment, and he frowns down at it.*

**ZOPHAR:** Bethlehem. *(Beat)* A tiny speck of a city far to the West, barely a smudge on the map. Hardly a choice for the birthplace of a king.

*He looks up and nods warmly at the audience, as if in greeting.*

My people call me a ‘wise man’. While other men engage in crafts and trades, I spend my working hours with my head in the clouds. You see, I have given my life to the study of the stars and the times. I pore over charts and ancient texts, sifting the truth from the lie, the history from the myth, the light from the darkness.

Does that make me wise? *(Smiles and shakes his head)* I rather doubt it. A knowledge of the stars hardly even makes one interesting these days.

*He looks up at the night sky and sighs contentedly.*

But I don’t mind. The stars are the only friends I need. *(Pause)* I’ve spent the better part of my life cataloguing these pinpoints of light in the evening sky, and I know them like a father knows his own children.

*He points.*

The Warrior.

*He points again.*

The Great Bear.

*Points again, and this time looks to the audience, eyes sparkling.*

And that one. Do you see that star in the western sky—brighter than the rest? That one has no name. At least not yet. That star...is new.

*He nods, glowing with excitement.*

It caused quite a stir with the others some weeks ago. We searched the ancient texts, studying the prophecies of old, until we at last found the answer, buried deep in the writings of the Hebrew people:

*Reading from the parchment in his hand:*

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting.”