“A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel…”

**NUMBERS 24:17**

A star foretold the place of Christ’s nativity, and led the Magi to him. In this instance, however, Christ himself is the bright morning star, the Messiah anointed from Israel.

*This illustration of the Circle of the Sun in Dante’s Paradiso is from the 1544 Venice edition of the Divine Comedy — courtesy of the Department of Special Collections.*