

Wise Men Still Worship Him? - 12/20/20

TEXT- Matthew 2:1-12 *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, 2 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.*

INTRO- People celebrate Christmas in different ways around the world. In Europe they have St. Nicolas day but Christmas day is primarily religious. In nations that have a strong number of Christians lights will be displayed and special food eaten and family time is provided. In non-Christian nations some are curious of Western celebration of Christmas and may have some form of it. In America special food may become a tradition. Lamb and pork, Ham or turkey are all prominent meats. Special pies, cookies and desserts are common. Decorations including evergreen trees are universal. Streets are lined with lights and decorations.

Americans celebrate in different ways. Having children for Christmas is a special treat. Some live alone, in the hospital, nursing home, prison widowed or divorced. Some live overseas in the military or on the mission field. Some are too poor to afford present and special meals.

In all of these traditions the reason for Christmas can be secondary or lost completely.

I have memories of Christmas in the hospital at home and at my grandparents. My best presents came when I was in the hospital: A pair of black motorcycle boots and a transistorized radio made in Japan.

Sometimes people travel a long distance for Christmas. I think we **One of the amazing stories surrounding the celebration of Christmas relates to a group of men who traveled anywhere from 800 to 1,000 miles over desert terrain. We know them as the Wise Men.**

These men (Not sure how many) probably came from Babylon: Men who had become believers when Israel was in captivity.

According to the text, their purpose was to follow 'His star' to lead them to **worship** 'the King of the Jews' Matthew 2:2.

He was the Christ child, the promised Messiah who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29), the One worthy of worship.

"When the Wise Men arrived, they fell down before the Christ child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh Mat. 2:10-11.

- Gold reminds us of His royalty (fit for a King),
- Frankincense reminds us of His divinity (used for worship), high-quality incense used by a priest
- Myrrh reminds us of His destiny (used for burial). Prophet

How many wise men were there? **We don't know**

Was Jesus crucified on top of Mt. Calvary? **Probably not**

Did the angels announce the birth of Christ from the sky? **Maybe from near the shepherd on the ground.**

I. Why Did These Magi Come To Worship Jesus?

A. They were Old Testament Believers

Probably believed the witness of the captives and passed on the the following generations.

B. They were aware of the significance of the star

Perhaps they were given a revelation concerning the Lord's coming related to a star. From Jerusalem the star led them to the house where Jesus was staying.

C. They came a long distance at great expense

D. The purpose of their visit was to worship Jesus the Messiah

- We worship God through reverence to Him
- We worship God through corporate assembly
- We worship God through song and music
- We worship God through prayer
- We worship God through giving
 1. The Magi brought gifts
 2. The Old Testament priests offered gifts
 3. God loves a cheerful giver
 4. Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive

II. What We Know From Their Visit

A. Prophecy was fulfilled

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Mic 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, 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 from of old, from everlasting.*

2. Jesus went to Egypt

Hos 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

3. Lamentation was heard

Jer 31:15 *Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.*

B. The importance of this event

1. Jesus is the Saviour to become sin for us
2. God came to us (God with us)
3. The importance of worship

III. The Result of Christ's Coming

A. Animosity from King Herod

B. The Shepherds worshipped Him

C. Every being must make a choice

Will it be Christ or the world?

Mat 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

1 Jn 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Luke 12:51 *Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:*

Mat 10:34 *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

Isa 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.***

- **Peace with God**

Rom 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

- **The peace of God**

Php 4:7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

“There is coming a day when **‘EVERY KNEE WILL BOW’** before Jesus and every tongue will declare that **‘Christ is Lord’** **Php 2:10-11** *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

CONCL – “No matter where or how far our Christmas vacations take us this year, may our hearts follow the path of the Wise Men in leading us to worship Jesus, the Christ child born in Bethlehem. Will you surrender your life and worship Him today?”

- Worship isn't just about who you sing songs about on Sunday morning, but it's about who or what takes precedence in your heart and mind.
- God doesn't need our praise. He absolutely deserves and delights in it, but He is completely full and satisfied without our contributions. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and gave us peace with God. Because of this, we can draw confidently to His throne to worship in spirit and truth.