

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST

TEXT: Matthew 2:2: 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.

Introduction:

Well, Christmas time is upon us again, for nearly the 2015th time. What purpose does this Christmas reason serve? Those of you who are really saved and know the Lord Jesus already have the answer. But there are still many here in our land and especially across the seas where our telecasts are now being shown, who do not know the true meaning of Christmas.



Is this Christmas message some myth of our imagination -
- - serving to lull our nation into a temporary forgetfulness of all the troubles and turmoil all about us? Is it like some soothing lullaby stum by a mother trying to rock her baby to sleep? Perhaps you have all the answers, but there are many who do not know.

I recall this experience which happened in front of one of our large department stores on the main street uptown. A lady was commenting on the Christmas displays in this particular store. They were scenes depicting the Birth of the World's only Saviour, our Lord Jesus, the Shepherds at the manger scene, and the coming of the wise men from the East.

The lady was overheard to say to her neighbor, "What a shame that they have to mix religion up with Christmas". It is very evident that this poor soul did not have the faintest idea as to why we celebrate Christmas. There is now a growing awareness of the evil consequences which result from playing up Santa Claus and down-playing the One whose birthday it was meant to celebrate.

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Christmas is God's response to the heart cries of multiplied millions who are wanting peace, joy, and someone to love them.

Christmas is God's only answer to the sin and evil problem spreading like a cancer all over the world.

Christmas is God's message of hope to a sad and sick generation.

Your faith in this Christmas message will make it a truly "Merry Christmas" to you.

God sent a host of angels to a group of shepherds on the night before Christmas with this message:

Luke 2:10-20

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



It was at night when Jesus was born into this world, just as it is like night in our hearts before we have Jesus reborn into our hearts. On that greatest of all

nights, God sent a heavenly host of angels to announce to a sleeping world the Birth of the world's only Saviour. No other baby has ever been ushered into the world like this One.

God revealed the coming of His only Begotten Son not only to the humble shepherds, but also far out in the Middle East to a group of wise men, men of high learning, masters of astronomy. How did God chose to tell the men of renown about the birth of His dear Son, the Redeemer of the world? He had to use a different method, for those loaded with 'brain soup' require much more evidence before they will budge.

The shepherds went immediately to where the Christ child was born and found Him, received Him as their long awaited Messiah, and worshipped Him. Then they turned away to make known everywhere the saying which the angels, and Mary, and Joseph told them concerning this miracle Child.



The shepherds on that Christmas night were close at hand. The wise men were far off. Both came to seek Him who came to save them from their sins. Just as they came, so all of us need to come to Jesus to be saved from our sins. The shepherds came HEART first and found Him sooner and much quicker than the wise men did. So it has been ever since, those who come HEART FIRST rather than HEAD FIRST will find Jesus much quicker.

When you and I hear the Word of God, we should believe it, receive it, and act upon it by faith. We do not need to go through the cumbersome process of human reasoning. We will get to Jesus and to the benefits of His Salvation so much sooner than the intelligencia will.

The text in **Matthew 2:2** declares an astonishing question and statement made by the wise men.

Matthew 2:2: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His Star in the east and come to worship Him.

Most of us have looked at the night sky some time or other. We have seen what seems like millions of stars. The Astronomers tell us that the naked eye can see only about 6,000. I won't dispute them. However, those of us who have taken the

time to study the starry heavens have seen many wonderful and unusual sights. The formation of the stars and the pattern of their circuits in the night sky have filled us with wonder and worship of their and our great Creator.

Little did the wise men realize when they looked up at Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades that a much more brilliant star would detach itself from the rest and zoom down so as to be their heavenly guide. It was destined by God to bring them to their Saviour and King.

This great eventful night, it seemed as though God had washed the heavens with purity and holiness. An unseen Hand took a choice star out of a constellation and mysteriously directed it to where these wise men were at the observatory.

It looked like a shooting star at first, but when it came directly towards them, they were filled with fear and wonder. Sudden-like, it slows down and hovers near to them. Then quick as a flash, one of these wise men remembers an ancient prophecy made by one of their famous prophets of the east by the name of Balaam. His prediction is recorded in the Bible in the Book of:



Numbers 24:17: I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

This prophecy is but one of many recorded in the Word of God concerning the coming of the Messiah. The first one is recorded in:

Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Genesis 49:10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between His feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.

And on to the prophets from Enoch to Samuel to David, then Isaiah, and then to Micah who tells of the plan of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea.

Micah 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 Who is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Daniel references Messiah's (Jesus') death (He "will be cut off"):

Daniel 9:24-26:

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

David tells of His rejection by many in the world in:

Psalm 22:1-31

¹ My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? why art thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring?

² O My God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

³ But thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

⁵ They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

⁷ All they that see Me laugh Me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

8 He trusted on the LORD that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.

9 But thou art He Who took Me out of the womb: thou didst make Me hope when I was upon My mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art My God from My mother's belly.

11 Be not far from Me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

12 Many bulls have compassed Me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset Me round.

13 They gaped upon Me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint: My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and My tongue cleaveth to My jaws; and thou hast brought Me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed Me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet.

17 I may tell all My bones: they look and stare upon Me.

18 They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.

19 But be not Thou far from Me, O LORD: O My strength, haste thee to help Me.

20 Deliver My soul from the sword; My darling from the power of the dog.

21 Save Me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard He from the horns of the unicorns.

22 I will declare Thy name unto My brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all ye the seed of Israel.

24 For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath He hid His face from Him; but when He cried unto Him, He heard.

25 My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay My vows before them that fear Him.

26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek Him: your heart shall live for ever.

27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

28 For the kingdom is the LORD's: and He is the governor among the nations.

29 All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before Him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

30 A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

31 They shall come, and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that He hath done this.

Psalm 69 and 109 speak of His betrayal unto death.

Zechariah speaks of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His death for the sins of the world to make atonement for the whole human race. He speaks of the colt which the Saviour would ride; the price paid by the religious leaders to the Messiah's betrayer, Judas. He prophesies of the manner of the Saviour's death by crucifixion and also of the nail wounds in His hands.



Jeremiah gives us several of His many titles by which He is to be called, The Lord our Righteousness and the Righteous Branch. **Zechariah** also calls Him the Branch.

Isaiah calls Him the Root out of dry ground.

This eventful night in Bethlehem, where Christ was born according to the prophecy of:

Micah 5:2: But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

There were thousands of people who noticed the stars in the Heavens. They had seen them many times before. But these wise men saw a new star which they named “His Star”. “His Star” refers alone and only to Jesus. There is no other person it fits, neither can be in the future. These wise men identified this Star and associated it with that age old prophecy of Balaam, who was one of their Seers. They were compelled by this evidence to believe their prophet. They saw this “Star” do the most unusual thing. It hovered like a space ship over their heads, then began slowly to move westward. They made quick but complete preparations to follow it, as it was to serve to be their Divine Guide to bring them to the Christ of Christmas.



This Star is God’s U.F.O. which served as the wise men’s navigator — or compass — and brought its followers safely to the Holy Land. No other child has been ushered into this old cold world like the Lord Jesus Christ. First, to shepherds by a Heavenly Host of Angels. Second, by a star; and this star declares Christ’s rank and position.

The wise men were wise enough to recognize Jesus’ deity by calling Him “King of the Jews”. In Jesus’ First Coming to earth, He did not come then to be the King of the Universe, but the Saviour of the World. Jesus is King in the making. His Kingship started in humiliation, born in a manger — a stable was a great condescension. But Jesus did it, humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even to death of the Cross, that we might have life everlasting. Therefore, God highly exalted Him and has given Him a Name which is above every name. That at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11:

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name:

¹⁰ 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.

There are several strange mysteries revealed in God's Word as signs or proofs of Jesus' deity; the angel choir appearing to the shepherds, then thru His divine "Star" - God's light to bring the wise men all the way to their Saviour. Then came to pass the mystery of iniquity — or satan working to stop their progress and hinder them from finding Jesus. Satan tried to intercept them — to detour them away from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, the capital city of the Holy Land. Instead of following "His Star" the bright lights of the city of Jerusalem coupled with human reasoning got them temporarily side tracked.

Wise men and women are not always so wise. They make blunders and goof just like the rest of us. They had been miraculously guided within sight of Jesus, but instead of looking up they looked on ahead and soon found people milling about everywhere. They began to ask everyone they saw, ***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.***



They soon discovered that these people were as ignorant and blind about the Saviour of the world as they (the wise men) were. The Bible says: ***If the blind lead the blind, they shall both fall into the ditch.***

Matthew 15:14: Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Those blind guides led the wise men to King Herod. When he heard their questions about a new King born, and recognizing these men to be intelligent and the upper class of society, King Herod was moved with vicious jealousy.



His selfish heart was enraged and he demanded of the Bible Scholars in the Jewish Sanhedrin: ***"Where Christ should be born?"*** They knew all right, but were more satisfied with little head knowledge about their Messiah than with the full revelation given in the

Word of God by the Holy Spirit. They gave King Herod the right Bible answer found but never moved one peg to go and seek Him and find Him themselves.

Micah 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 Who is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Herod then requested of the wise men to keep seeking until they found Him, then come to bring him first hand information. He tried to smoke screen them or fool them into believing he was desirous of coming also to worship this new King of the Jews. But we know better, for he wanted to destroy the Saviour of the world because the spirit of satan, the destroyer, was reigning in his heart.

Slyly, Herod preserved a calm exterior, and told the wise men to search diligently for the young child and to bring him word so he could go and worship Him also.

Here is a shocking Bible truth. If you will not come to Jesus with a repentant heart, to worship and serve Him, He is hidden from your view and beyond your reach that you cannot find Him. Herod knew he could not find Jesus, but he instinctively felt the kind hearts these men had would bring them to the true King of the Jews and more important — the Saviour of the world.

If you will not come to Jesus with a repentant heart, to worship and serve Him, He is hidden from your view and beyond your reach that you cannot find Him.

Herod, who is a type of the devil, lied to them, as the devil is expert in doing to all who are seeking for Christ. This is the reason for all the false cults in the world today.

Matthew 2:10: When they saw the Star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

The wise men finally got on their way again and, looking up, they found their faithful and patient Guide, HIS STAR, still waiting to finish its mission of leading them all the way to Jesus. The wise men ***“rejoiced with exceeding great joy”*** when they discovered the Star again.

It's a good sign when we men and women are determined to seek until we find Him. It is even a better sign when we are glad for the sure light of God's Word as it shines again into our hearts helping us to get to Jesus. When they found the Lord Jesus, these wise men no longer needed the lesser light, nor did they rest any longer in its leadership. They found Him:

John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the World: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

They fell in complete surrender on their knees at His feet. Their hearts became filled with the joy of His Salvation. They have finally found Him, the Bright and Morning Star, the offspring of David.

Revelation 22:16: I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.



The wise men were not curiosity seekers. They came to worship Jesus and pour out their gratitude for God sending Him into the world. They came and got what they wanted. Jesus was born on earth, that we might be reborn in heart and spirit. This Bible doctrine of the new birth is of Heavenly origin. It was designed in Heaven. It bears God's copyright. God wants you in His Family and there is no other way in but by the New Birth.

John 3:7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

The experience does not belong to one church or denomination. No one religion on the earth has a corner on it. The Baptists or Methodists did not originate it. Every church that preaches the message which the angels gave to the shepherds as recorded in **Luke 2:11 — For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord** — is true to your lost soul.

There are some things in life that are not optional, which we may or may not experience. There are some things which are a must and this is one of them for Jesus said:

John 3:3-5:

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit is now our divine Light, our Star who leads everybody to Jesus. He prepares our hearts for the new birth by convicting us of our sins and shows us our need of the Saviour. The Holy Spirit also baptizes us into the Body of Christ which means He places us into The Family of God.



Although the devil may try to show you some way of salvation that tries to get you to bypass Jesus, like he did the wise men, always remember that you need no longer grope in the darkness seeking the light. There is magical power on our bended knees, calling on the Lord for mercy. The Holy Spirit will lead you directly and unerringly right to Jesus. Remember what Jesus said:

John 6:37: All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.

Romans 10:13: For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

That includes you, and leaves no one out wherever you are in this world. Jesus is the universal Saviour of the whole wide world.

IN CONCLUSION: As SAVIOUR, Jesus forgives us of all our sins and covers us with His robe of righteousness. As KING, He dethrones sin and satan, and gives us power to live right.

Romans 6:14: For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

As HIS STAR LED THE WISE MEN ALL THE WAY TO FIND Jesus, the Spirit of God in the hearts of born again Christians will lead us. To you who are unsaved, we will gladly and faithfully lead you to find our Saviour for, ministers are called God's Stars in:

Revelation 1:16, 20:

16 And He had in His right Hand Seven Stars: and out of His mouth when a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength.

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in My right Hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

God's Word shows us that Jesus was not to be born in some massive temple, mansion, or palace, but in a humble stable. The Gospel message is simple and plain — God is telling the wise and the not-so-wise that Jesus can only be reborn into humble repentant hearts which recognize their lost condition and their need of a Saviour.

The wise men made their choice; they knew the prophecy of the Star of Judah. You also have the power of choice. You have the same facts the wise men had, and I hope you will choose Jesus to be your Saviour, as they did.



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