

Speaker : Senior Pastor
Title : Where is He?
Scriptures : Matthew 2:1-11

“1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 ‘ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1-11)

Introduction:

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (Matthew 2:2)

- The first question asked about Jesus was “Where is He?”
- The Birth of Jesus was unusual

“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11)

- Born in a stable
- Worship was accorded to the baby Jesus
- Treasures were given to Him at His birth – gold, frankincense and myrrh

“And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also” (Matthew 2:8)

- Wise men came searching for Him
- King Herod was willing to worship Him

“When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was” (Matthew 2:9)

- There was a guiding star that led the wise men to Jesus

“4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 ‘ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel” (Matthew 2:4-6)

- The Birth of Jesus was a prophetic fulfillment

There are 3 types of people who need to be noted:

1. The wise men (Matthew 2:1)
2. King Herod (Matthew 2:3)
3. The priests and scribes (Matthew 2:4)

The Wise Men

They are a picture of those who seek God

- They were described as “wise men”
 - As wise as they were, they could not find Jesus
 - The king could not help them – no power or authority on earth can bring you to Jesus
 - Religion could not help them – no man made religion or self righteousness can lead you to God
 - Only God could help the wise men find Jesus by sending His Star to guide them.
- They found joy, when they found Jesus

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” (Matthew 2:10)
- They were worshippers and givers

“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11)
- Jesus is the STAR that leads us to God

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16)
- Jesus is the Door

“Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7)

King Herod

He is a picture of those

- Who want a King who would not disturb their lives or threaten their authority
- Who have a King and do not want a change - comfortable in their material world and humanistic religion

The Priests And Scribes

They are a picture of those

- Who are only hearers and doers
- Who will only do something if it fits their beliefs and interpretations
- Who choose their own God. They were looking for a King and not a baby, therefore, they rejected Jesus.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death”
(Proverbs 14:12)

Conclusion: Jesus, The Joy Of Christmas

- The wise men found joy

“9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy”
(Matthew 2:9-10)

- Mary, the mother of Jesus said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”
(Luke 1:46-47)

- The shepherd said:

“15, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them” (Luke 2:15 & 20)

- God sent Jesus and Jesus said:

“10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)

- The abundant life begins with:

- The forgiveness of sin

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins” (Acts 13:38)

- The gift of the Holy Spirit

“38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call”
(Acts 2:38-39)

The joy of the Lord will be our strength

“Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength”
(Nehemiah 8:10)