



Wise Men Still Seek Him

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Identity of the Wise Men

- What do we really know about the wisemen from scripture? Matt. 2:1,2
 1. They came after Jesus was born
 2. Herod was king.
 3. They didn't know where they were going
 4. Back home they saw a star
 5. They gave 3 types of gifts
 6. We don't know how many or their names



The Identity of the Wise Men

- Who were they? The East – Assyria, Babylon
- Magi - They were Scholars, Astronomers, performers of magic – (magi), King makers of their day
- Hereditary Priesthood Tribe from the Medes. Like Levites, performed religious ceremonies and rituals.
- What do they know about the birth of the Messiah?
- Daniel and friends were trained for govt. admin.
Dan.1:4,cf.Gen.11:28 – Abram was Chaldean
- Daniel became leader of this group - Dan.2:48; 5:11



The Arrival of the Wise Men

- What is apparent is that they were God-fearing Gentiles, and that their enthusiasm is a condemning contrast to the apathetic indifference of Israel's religious elite.
- Why the fuss about their arrival?
 - The Roman –Eastern Empire conflict
 - The Persian Cavalry
 - Looking for final king
 - Matt.2:3 - Herod didn't know scripture - Micah 5:2-4



The Arrival of the Wise Men

- Why had they come?
- Came to Worship – Matt. Portraying Jesus as Universal King to be worshiped by all. Matt.2:2,11 28:17-20
- Political? Had seen His star
- Probably familiar with Daniel's writings
- Set as a contrast to the Religious Jews
- God is Radically at work in our world.



The Arrival of the Wise Men

- When did they arrive?
- Pretty sure they did not show up at the manger
 1. After Jesus was born ... 2:1
 2. They entered the house ... 2:11
 3. They saw the young child ... 2:11
 4. Babies 2 years and under killed, in keeping with the time Herod had learned from the wise men. 2:16
 5. They gave a poor mans sacrifice – Lk.2:24 cf. Lev.5:7
 6. Their hasty departure 2:13



What About The Star?

- Many Ideas of what God may have chosen to use
 - Super Nova, Intersecting Planets, Comet
 - Mat.2:2,7,9
- Seems to have appeared, then disappeared
- They did not follow it to Jerusalem
- Reappeared as they headed for Bethlehem
- The Star moved – Supernatural appearance of the Glory of God? –Lk.2:9; Rev.22:16; Num.24:17;



Flight To Egypt

- Warned by the Angel
 - No threat made yet, God knows our tomorrow
- Trip paid for by wise men.
 - God calls, God equips
- It was a fulfillment of prophecy
 - Jesus was a type of Israel – Hosea 11:1 cf. Matt.2:15
 - ✓ Sent to Egypt to survive
 - ✓ Called back to reclaim
 - ✓ Egypt Picture of World



Flight To Egypt

- The hasty departure probably occurred about 1BC
- The flight of Jesus and His family resulted in the death of many baby boys
- Matt.2:16-18
 - This was also prophesied – Jeremiah 31:15 – “Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”
 - It speaks of the depravity of man



The Return To Israel

- Time in Egypt probably less than 1 year
- They returned to Galilee
 - Herod ruled over all Israel
 - His son ruled over only Judea
- Fulfillment of another prophecy – Isa.11:1 – Mat.2:23
 - Nazarene – Nazarite – *netzar* – Branch / Twig
 - One separated to God – Jesus touched the dead, unclean and drank wine, not what a religious Nazarite would do



Applications From Wise Men

- 1) Jesus is the Messiah, the King of the Jews, and should be honored as such.
- 2) Jesus is to be worshiped not just by Jews, but by all the nations of the world, as represented by the wise men from the east.
- 3) God wields the universe to make His Son known and worshiped. This is His great goal in all things - that His Son be known and worshiped. God is leading people from all over the world to worship Jesus



Applications From Wise Men

- 4) Jesus is troubling to people who do not want to worship him and brings out opposition for those who do. Indifference and hostility
- 5) Worshiping Jesus means joyfully ascribing authority and dignity to Christ with sacrificial gifts.
 - Title, Posture, Attitude (“they rejoiced exceedingly, with great joy”), Gift