

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR (Why We Celebrate Christmas)

#2 Something Heavenly Touched Mankind

12.5.21

Matthew 2:1-12 New King James Version 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, 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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: '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.'" Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 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. Then being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Central Truth: Christmas is a movement in which God sends out a call, and mankind has opportunity to respond to it.

I. The Wise Men showed wisdom in their approach to Jesus. (2:1-2)

- A. They overcame distance.
- B. They overcame discomfort.
- C. They overcame danger.

II. The Wise Men showed wisdom in their openness to God's Grace. (2:3-10)

- A. They listened to the message of the scriptures.
- B. They respected the message of the star.
- C. They obeyed the message of the Spirit.

III. They showed wisdom in their gifts to Jesus. (2:11-15)

- A. They brought Gold to Jesus — spoke insightfully of His worth and worthiness.
- B. They brought Frankincense to Jesus — spoke prophetically of the healing power of worship.
- C. They brought Myrrh to Jesus — spoke prophetically of His suffering.

Christian Life Lessons

1. God is working more than we know.
2. God is working before we are even aware.
3. God is working something better than we hoped for.
4. God is working something deeper than we understand.

John 1:9-14 NIV The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.