

THE WISE MEN

Text: Matthew 2:1-23.

Point #1. - THE WISE SEEKERS.

Verses #1 & #2 - The wise men inquire of King Herod, where the "King of the Jews" was, so they could worship Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 - "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

Point #2. - THE FRANTIC HEROD.

Verses #3 - #6 - Herod was upset and jealous to think there was a 'king' who could give him competition or divide his ruling kingdom. Herod would do everything possible to kill Jesus. This was Satan's nightmare! Huge demonic activity was stirring.

Point #3 - HEROD'S DECEPTIVE PLAN.

Verses #7 & #8 - Herod was lying to the wise men just to get information from them so he could eventually kill Jesus.

"...bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him, also." Herod had zero intentions of actually worshipping Jesus. Herod was seeking for this newborn King's life.

Interesting how opposite the two contrasts are. One group (the wise men), are worshippers and givers. The other side was Herod and his group, who were being used in the hands of Satan to kill, steal and destroy the Saviour of the world. Herod was trying to eliminate the very existence of this Redeemer for all mankind.

Even when Mary found out she was pregnant out of wedlock (but was totally a virgin, because the conception was supernaturally injected in her womb

by the Holy Spirit), Mary's life could have been in danger. An angel had to come and explain it all to Joseph (and to Mary), so he wouldn't let others have her stoned to death.

That was the first phase. The 2nd was at this point in the story, when King Herod finds out a newborn King was to be born. Herod desires passionately to murder Jesus.

Point #4 - LED BY A STAR.

Verses #9 & #10. Just like the wise men were led by that bright Bethlehem star, we are led (as Christians), by the Holy Spirit. The wise men didn't know for sure every detail. They had to travel on their journey by faith. (II Cor. 5:7)

We do the same today, when we follow the Holy Spirit. His job is to lead us to Jesus, and then teach and guide us to be more like our Saviour. (See: John 16:13)

The star led them directly and exactly where Jesus was located.

Point #5 - BRINGING TREASURES TO THE HOUSE.

Verse #11. Maybe Mary & Joseph needed the gifts in order to make their journey back home, eventually to Nazereth. They could cash in on the gifts for money, food, clothing and other expenses to help pay for the costs of their travel.

What are we bringing to Jesus? (Matt. 6:21)

Are you tithing? (Mal. 3:10 & 11)

Real worship causes us to give. (Luke 6:38)

Real worship causes us to love God and others. (Deut. 6:5/ Matt. 22:37/ Luke 10:27)

God doesn't need money in heaven! But God does

need us to give so His work can continue to carry on while we are still on this earth. Ministries need money to operate. Always remember that. God uses money as a vehicle to get His work accomplished in this world. Ecclesiastes 10:10 - "...money answereth all things."

Point #6 - DREAMS AND WARNINGS.

Verses #12 - #15. The wise men, also Joseph, Mary and Jesus, had to flee.

The wise men ventured back to their own country without communicating to King Herod. Joseph and his family fled to Egypt, to escape the soon-to-be horrifying slaughter of all newborn baby boys up to age two.

Angels came to both groups to warn them to leave the area where Herod was presiding.

Over and over in scripture from the O.T. through the N.T., angels came to announce or warn people of upcoming events. God uses dreams and visions, with or without angels, to direct His people. Remember back then, there was no completed Word like there is today. We look to the Word most of all for our direction.

Point #7 - THE GREAT SLAUGHTER.

Verses #16-#18. The scripture again gets fulfilled from Jeremiah 31:15. (See also: Matt. 2:18). All the baby boys from newborn to 2 yrs. were to be killed, so Herod could appease his anger and rule his kingdom ruthlessly.

Note: Those innocent babies died so Herod's anger could be satisfied, and that he could destroy this newborn King! Likewise, Jesus (who was innocent), died so we could live and appease God's wrath on us, so we wouldn't have to die and go to hell.

Point #8 - BACK TO NAZERETH !

Verses #19 - #23. An angel warns Joseph two

more times to travel on and eventually return back to his hometown of Nazereth. This is a type of how God sometimes moves us in phases and stages until He gets us to His divine purpose, plan and destiny for our lives. Even then, it could be for a season. Nothing is permanent on this earth. Only heaven and hell are permanent.

Have you made your decision to follow Jesus ?

The wise men were determined, desperate and diligent to find Jesus. Are you ?

Are you desperate for more of Him ?

To worship Him ?

To give to Him ?

You can be. Ask God to give you more hunger for His Word and His presence. Ask Him to save you, and fill you with His precious Holy Spirit. Ask Him to give you a strong desire to win valuable lost souls to Jesus.

Proverbs 11:30 - "...he that winneth souls is wise."

Daniel 12:3 - "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

Did you notice both of these above verses counts one wise if they teach and win souls to Jesus ?

Will you be that one God calls 'wise' ?

Proverbs 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principle thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding."

You can. You will. Go for it !

For more info: www.therevivalchurch.com and www.jillwalker.org
E-maiL: revjill@yahoo.com