

Date : 23 Dec 2018
Theme : The Christ of Christmas
Key passage : *Matthew 2:1-12*
Key verse : *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Matthew 2:10 NKJV*

Introduction:

Today, we want to be as purposeful as the wise men who had set off on the long journey with one spiritual aim. Their aim was... *we (the wise men) saw the star in the east and have come to worship Him... Mathew 2:2*

1. What was the divine significance of this Star?

- a. This Star prophesied pointed to a coming King
 - ... a star will come out of Jacob*
 - ... a scepter will rise out of Israel Numbers 24:17*
 - The scepter is a symbol of Kingship. This prophecy refers to an earlier passage in *Genesis 49:10 ... the scepter shall not depart from Judah...* (which refers to the coming Messiah.) Our Lord Jesus descended from Judah. This star in the east is His Star.
- b. This Star also pointed to the promised Messiah
 - Herod asked the priests where the Christ (Messiah) was to be born *Matthew 2:4*
He knew the real King was to be the Messiah
 - Herod asked the wise men the exact time the Star had appeared
... report to me, so that I too may worship Him ... Matthew 2:8
- c. This Star had plotted pathways unlike normal stars
 - ... and, behold, the star which they had seen in the east went before them ... Matthew 2:9*
 - How could a star in the universe go before the men?
 - How could a star settle over houses? This one did.
 - The fact that the Star appeared and moved indicates more than a natural appearance. (God revealed to the wise men that the long-awaited Messiah had now been born, and the sign God had given them in the heaven, went before them and they found Jesus)

2. What was the faith journey of the wise men?

- a. The wise men were constantly looking up in search of the Star of Jesus
 - ... We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him Matthew 2:2.*
- b. The wise men may have doubted but they did not give up and continued to search for Jesus
 - ... Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews?... Matthew 2:2.*
- c. The wise men rejoiced and worshiped when they finally found the Saviour Christ
 - When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy Matthew 2:10*
 - ... and they bowed down and worshiped Him Matthew 2:11 (NKJV).*

3. Why do we consider them wise?

- a. They were wise because they were purposeful in their seeking
 - Asking around in Jerusalem (continual asking around the city)
... Where is the One who has been born...? Matthew 2:2
 - Looking up to the heavens
... we saw His star... and have come to worship Him Matthew 2:2

b. They worshipped the King despite humble surroundings
... on coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him Matthew 2:10.

c. They did not come empty-handed to worship Jesus
... they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense (frankincense) and of myrrh Matthew 2:11 (signifying Kingship, sacrifice and burial).

Application

- a) Don't stop halfway, pursue the truth about Jesus all the way. What will it be like in your situation?
- b) Jesus is standing outside the door of your heart. Invite Him in by faith. Receive Him as your personal Saviour. If you wish, do you know how?