

## **They WERE Wise Men Matthew 2:1-21**

*by Pastor Roy Hogan*

They were wise in their **Direction**

*...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, vs 1*

The world is seeking. The problem is they are seeking in the wrong direction. Man void of his creator dwelling in his heart is disoriented and looking for direction. The world is seeking. Drugs. Sports. Entertainment. Recreation. Money.

They asked a wise **Question**

*...where is he that is born King of the Jews? vs 2*

They were anxious inquirers intent on finding the Lord of Glory! They did not ask “Are there any jobs in Jerusalem?” or “Can you tell us where the church is located?” or “Where is the best price on sheep?”

Oh, that people today would *ask* for the Lord. So simple is salvation that all that is needed is to get it is to ask for it- *Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Romans 10:13. Ask and ye shall receive. John 6:37 says *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

They were wise in their **Vision**

*...we have seen his star... vs 2*

God hung a star over the place of the Savior’s birth. I know of no other personality in history that can say this. Why did God do this?

What better than a star could God have chosen to mark the place of birth? Think of a star: it is bright so *all* can see; it is positioned so that even a man flat of his back can see it; it is positioned higher than all this world has to offer; it is light and Jesus is light. The only person who cannot see a star is a blind person. Therefore, we find the Devil’s strategy in II Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this*

*world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

The state of Missouri bears the theme “the show-me state.” We live in a “show-me” world. Folk can gaze at Jesus and yet, not see him. Show them a dollar bill and they have 20/20 vision.

They were wise in their **Motives**

*...We... and are come to worship him... vs 2*

They had a wise motive. Oh, dear God, I am sorry we have lost the art of worshipping your Son, Jesus Christ. I am sorry. Church is no longer worship. Instead, it is a formality. The Merriam dictionary says: *to honor or show reverence for a divine being or supernatural power, 2: to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.*

These men thought highly of the child named Jesus for they called the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes “King of the Jews.” What are peasants; He is Royalty. We are servants; He is King. We are human beings; He is Deity. We sit in pews; He sits on a throne in Heaven. Why can’t we worship him? Why can’t we bow down to him?

It is believed these wise men thought so much of Christ that they traveled from the east a distance of between 400 – 700 miles. I drive seven miles to church. They walked or perhaps rode some on animal. I rode to church in a comfortable car. They likely traveled at night so they could follow the star to the place of Christ’s birth. Think of the dangers of night travel with the ruggedness of the wilderness. Their sacrifice was great. The effort that put forth to worship the child Christ Jesus was vast. These men were fascinated and captivated by the thought of worshipping him.

They never came to meet his parents. They never came to take his picture. They never came to see the temple in Jerusalem. They came to WORSHIP a baby name Christ Jesus.

They were wise in their **Biblical Beliefs**

*And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. vs 6*

In their meeting with Herod, the wise men, for a time, lost sight of the star. They were likely meeting in his chambers. They were men of faith. When they could no longer see the star with the human eye, they turned to the Scripture to see him. Bless the name of the Lord, and thanks be unto God for the Scripture.

What led these men to make this trip of hundreds of miles to see the child? Where did they get the knowledge to know to look for the Savior and his star? I do not know, nor does anyone know, whether or not these men were astrologers. It has often been said that they were astrologers and that by constant surveillance of the sky they discovered one night a star had appeared that had not been seen before. I do not hold this view. I believe they FIRST looked at the Old Testament scrolls and read the prophecy of a star appearing and, believing the Scripture, watched for the star. Night after night, they gazed heavenward in hopes of seeing that star. Finally, one night they saw it. They loaded the donkeys and camels and headed west. They made a trip based on faith first, and vision later.

*Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*

They were wise in **Rejoicing**

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. vs 10*

No event shaped the history of the world like the coming of our Savior. In my lifetime, I witnessed, on a “snowy” TV, a man walking on the moon. To this I say “so what.” I cannot forget the site of the Berlin wall being torn down. What a glorious day this

was! It made me weep. However, no event has impacted the course of history like the birth of a baby in a cattle stall in the little town of Bethlehem some 2000 years ago.

The wise men wisely rejoiced.

*Ps 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

They were wise to **Come to the Savior**

*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him vs 11*

Their mission was complete. They had arrived. They were in the house in the presence of the God of the Glory, the Lamb of God, and the Savior of the world. Mission complete.

*Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

Do you think there will be folk missing for Heaven that more than one time sat on the pew of the church? Do you think there will be folk missing in Heaven that once knelt at an altar? The wise men fell down in his presence. They did what they came for and that was to worship him. I am moved by the fact they fell down.

The men never looked him over and departed. They never congratulated Mary or Joseph. They never sought an autograph from the parents. They worshipped him. There are some misguided folks in this world who today will pass over the Christ and pay homage to the mother, Mary.

If you ever get to Heaven, you will visit the babe.

They were wise in their **Giving**

*...and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. vs 11*

Jesus gave his side to the angry thrust of the Roman spear.  
Jesus gave his cheek to the vile crowd who plucked out his beard.  
Jesus yielded his brow to poisonous thrones  
Jesus gave his back to the violent whip.  
He gave his hands and feet to the hammer and nails.  
He gave his soul as an offering for sin.

We owe him. II Corinthians 8:9 says *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Because of his poverty, I stand here today without a single need.

Gold- a symbol of Kingship. Frankincense- a symbol of worship.  
Myrrh- a symbol of death and mourning.

They were wise in their **Route**

*And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way vs 12*

Herod had asked them to come back by his office after they found Jesus and let him know where Jesus was. The devil Herod had one thing in mind and that was to kill baby Jesus. He was jealous toward Jesus for he feared Jesus would take his throne. He eventually decreed that all children two years old and under be slaughtered: vs 16 *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

Without a doubt, these men were wise.

Mt 2:1-21

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Mt 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Mt 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Mt 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. Mt 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, Mt 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Mt 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. Mt 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. Mt 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. Mt 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Mt 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Mt 2:12 And being warned of God in a*

*dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. Mt 2:13*

*And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*

*Mt 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: Mt 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Mt 2:16*

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

*Mt 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, Mt 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. Mt 2:19*

*But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Mt 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. Mt 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.*