

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to know the Biblical accounts of Christmas more than the traditions?
2. What are the most common inaccuracies of the traditional story of the wise men?
3. Why did Matthew include the wise men event in his gospel that was written to Jews?
4. How would you describe the heart condition of the Jews when Christ was born?
5. The wise men were seeking Jesus, but how was God seeking them? How about us?
6. What gifts do you lay down before the Lord in worship?

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Answers to fill in the blanks:
INTRODUCTION
1) WAY BETTER 2) WORD 3) WE 3 KINGS OF ORIENT ARE 4) AFTER 5) MAGI (MAGI)
6) DANIEL THE PROPHET 7) JEWISH 8) SUPERNATURAL – AN ACT OF GOD 9) CLUELESS
10) MICAH 5:2: 11) WHERE, WHEN 12) THREAT 13) GUIDED 14) ROYALTY, DEITY,
HUMANITY 15) RIVAL 16) PASSION, SEEKING HIM 17) SEEK AND WORSHIP 18) MOST
VALUABLE

Sermon Study Guide
Pastor Phil Newby – December 9, 2018

SERMON NOTES

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM Matthew 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

- 1) The true events in the Bible of the birth of Christ are _____
_____ than the traditions we hear at Christmas time!
- 2) It is important to remember that it is God's _____
that is life changing, not man-made traditions.
- 3) _____,
a song title well known at Christmas, encourages beliefs about the
wise men that are not exactly Scripturally accurate.

THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT

MATTHEW 2:1-3 (CSB)

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

- 4) The wise men arrived in Jerusalem _____ Jesus was born.
- 5) "Wise men" is a translation of _____. They were Babylonian/Persian priests that studied the stars, interpreted dreams, practiced sorcery, and divination, and served as counsel to their king.
- 6) They likely learned of the coming king of the Jews from the influence and writings of _____.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

- 7) Herod (37-4BC) was made king over the Jews by Rome, was not _____, and was a cruel tyrant, paranoid of plots against his reign.
- 8) The star the wise men saw cannot be explained by any natural phenomena, but can only be explained as _____

MATTHEW 2:4-6 (CSB)

⁴So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they told him, “because this is what was written by the prophet: ⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah: Because out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

- 9) Herod, the chief priests, the scribes, and the people of Jerusalem were _____ that the Messiah had come.
- 10) Herod is told of the prophecy in _____ and also a quote from 2 Samuel 5:2.

MATTHEW 2:7-8 (CSB)

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him.”

- 11) Herod found out not only _____ the Christ was to be born, but also _____ the exact time was of His birth!
- 12) Herod’s desire was not to worship the Christ, but to eliminate a potential _____.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

MATTHEW 2:9-12 (CSB)

⁹After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was – the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshipped him. Then they presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

- 13) This time the star _____ them to Bethlehem and to the house where Jesus was, and they worshipped Him!
- 14) Gold was a symbol of _____, frankincense was a symbol of _____, and myrrh was a symbol of _____.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

JEREMIAH 29:13

¹³You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.

- 15) Like Herod, sometimes we look at Jesus as a _____.
- 16) Like the Jews, sometimes we lose our _____ for Jesus and stop _____.
- 17) Like the wise men, we need to _____ the One who is seeking after us! (John 4:23)
- 18) Worship involves giving to the Lord that which is _____ to us!