

THE MIRACLE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:1-18

¹ 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, ² 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."

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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.

⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ *' 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.'*"^[a]

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ 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."

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ 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.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*"^[b]

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ " *A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.*"^[E]

Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 ² " But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
*Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.*"

A small town 5 miles south of Jerusalem

Ruth & Boaz
Home of David

Bethlehem means "House of Bread"
Which means it was a very fertile place.

Herod was a master assassin!

The Wise men from the East, Some where in Asia or the Middle East. They were skilled in philosophy and science. They were known as holy men, men of wisdom and interpreter of dreams.

Their motivation was to worship. The star lighted their way to worship. The scripture located the place to worship. They worshiped in the presence of the Savior.

God gave witness through nature vs. 2, 9, and 10

God gave witness in His words vs. 4-6

God gave witness in a child vs. 11, 12

Wise men still seek Him!

Isaiah 55:6

⁶ Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

Rejoiced – with exceeding great joy
Luke 10:21 “In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit”....

- The House
- Young Child
- Fell down and worshiped Him

Worship involves giving

- First they gave themselves
- 2nd they gave their treasures

Worship involves sacrifice

- Time
- Effort
- Possessions

3 gifts are mentioned

- Gold – gift for a King
- Frankincense – gift for a priest
- Myrrh – a gift for His death

The value of these gifts

This would cover the expense of their flight to Egypt to avoid the slaughter that Herod would order for all infants to 2 yrs of age.
Vs. 13-18

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

NOTICE: In the miracle gift of Christmas God uses a variety of people to complete His purpose. Including Angels

There is a place for each of us in God’s salvation plan.

There is a place for you!