

Advent: The Coming of Our Savior // CHRIST

How far would you travel to see something of value? My wife has always wanted to visit Hawaii. Most ladies add on Paris or Venice. Last Summer, my family got to see the Grand Canyon. It's well worth the visit. My wife's entire family traveled here from Western IL and Florida to celebrate Christmas! A pastor friend of mine recently visited the Holy Land and said it changed his life and ministry.

Tonight, in "Christmas: The Savior is Born", let's look at the wise men, who traveled a great distance. Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV) says, "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, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"

So, who were these wise men? The NLT Life Application Bible says, "They may have been Jews who remained in Babylon after the Exile and knew the Old Testament predictions of the Messiah's coming. They may have been eastern astrologers who studied ancient manuscripts from around the world. And, they may have had a special message from God directing them to the Messiah."

Regardless, they came from “afar” to see Jesus Christ, the “King of the Jews”! They followed His star. And, when it came to rest over the place where Jesus was, Matthew 2:10 (ESV) says, “They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” And, when they saw Him, they fell down, worshiped, and opened their treasures! Plus, to avoid Herod’s wrath, they departed to their own country by another way!

The Wise Men travelled a great distance to see Jesus, the Messiah. This Christmas, may we all do the same. May we journey to Bethlehem to see Jesus and call Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When we find Him, may we rejoice exceedingly with great joy, for He is God’s gift to ALL people. And, may we go to the greatest of lengths to share Him with everyone we know who needs Him!

Let’s pray. Lord, Jesus is the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. His name means Savior. He is Immanuel, God with us. He is the Christ Messiah, the Son of the Most High God. He is the good news of great joy for all the people. He is our hope, love, joy, peace, and light. Lord, help us, today, to bow down and worship Him. And, help us rejoice exceedingly with great joy this Christmas!

Amen

Scripture Reading

“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 saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’ 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” 7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.’ 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then,

opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.” - Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message Series

Advent - The Coming of Our Savior

Message Topic

Christ

Message Points

NOTES:

Memory Verse

“And going into the house, the Wise Men saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” - Matthew 2:11 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

- What's the furthest you've ever traveled in your life to see something you valued? What was it? Was it worth the trip? Why or why not?
- Read Matthew 2:1-12. What do we learn of these Wise Men? Why did they come to see Jesus? What did they personally experience?
- During Advent, we've talked about Jesus bringing hope, love, joy, and peace into the world. Which of these do you need most and why?
- Who do you know, this Christmas, who needs the good news of great joy, Jesus? How will you go about sharing Him with them?

YouVersion

None

Benediction

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” - Romans 15:13 (ESV)