

Wise Men and a Foolish King

Matthew 2:1-12

Bradley Pinkerton

2 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. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. [Matthew 2:1-12]

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [Genesis 3:5]

25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. [Judges 21:25]

- 1 The Christmas story is the celebration that God refused to passively watch humanity perish in our sin.
- 2 The Christmas story reminds us of our need for a Savior.
- 3 The Christmas story teaches us to wonder at the majesty of the God who became man.
- 4 The Christmas story warns us against false saviors and deceptive worship.
- 5 The Christmas story includes people from every tribe and nation.
- 6 The Christmas story anticipates Christ's second coming.

*9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple. 10 As your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
11 Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments! [Psalm 48:9-11]*

30 "As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, 'Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.' 31 And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. 32 And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it. [Ezekiel 33:30-32]

*19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
20 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;
21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope." [Matthew 12:19-21]*