

The Epiphany – Part 1

Matthew 2:1-12 (NKJV)

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.' "

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.

Daniel 1:19-20 (NIV)

19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Numbers 24:17 (NKJV)

A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel.

“Holy Spirit, manifest the finished work of Christ in my life.”

Isaiah 60:10 (GNT)

The Lord says to Jerusalem, “Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you.”

Acts 2:16-17 (AMPC)

16 But [instead] this is [the beginning of] what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams.

7 Reasons the Wise Men were Wise

- 1. The wise men respected voices of wisdom from the past. We too, can trust what was written by the prophets.**
- 2. The wise men sought for higher truths and spiritual revelation to live by. This equates to receiving more and more divine guidance through both the logos and rhema of God.**
- 3. The wise men were sensitive to the supernatural. They saw a star that was brighter than normal and perceived it as a divine sign.**
- 4. The wise men were willing to sacrifice in order to connect with their destiny. Being risk-takers, they traveled by faith through treacherous terrain with no exact information to go on.**
- 5. The wise men were determined even when they lost their way. For a period of time, the star disappeared, but they still persisted. If you’re going to reach your goals, you’ve got to embrace the habit of perseverance – consistency, not intensity, is the real key to your success.**
- 6. The wise men knew the value of giving to someone of royal lineage. Today, we give our tithes and offerings to our High Priest, Jesus Christ.**
- 7. The wise men were willing to alter pre-arranged plans because of divine intervention. Instead of returning the same way they came, they went another way, thus avoiding Herod’s scrutiny.**

Question: What do you know you should be doing, but are not acting on?