

Christmas Part 2: The Magi and a Lesson About Worship

Matthew 2:1-12



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Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the

east and have come to worship Him." 3 And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he was inquiring of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Leader who will shepherd My people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and carefully determined from them the time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." 9 Now after hearing the king, they went their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, was going on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. 10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And after coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi departed for their own country by another way.

1) God Draws Us to Worship Jesus at Christmas. The Christmas story continues with an unusual occurrence. It is not the people, priests, or rulers among God's promised land that come forth to worship Jesus at Christmas, rather, it is an unlikely cohort of men from afar; the magi. It is these men that God draws to Jesus for the purpose of worship. They see the sign of God which leads them to the city of God where they receive a word from God so that they may find and worship Jesus. On the very first Christmas, God shows the world that Jesus is to be worship by all of humanity. He is not just the King of the Jews, but He is the savior of all mankind and worthy of our worship.

2) The World Will Offer False Worship to Jesus at Christmas. Despite the good news that the King has been born and could be found in Bethlehem, not everyone receives that news with joy. King Herod is troubled and launches a deceptive and evil plan against Jesus. Herod lies to the magi and commissions them to find Jesus so that he too can worship the Christ. Herod is bringing forth false worship of Jesus to advance his own selfish agenda. The world today, like Herod, hates Jesus. It will lie and deceive, offer up false worship, all with the motive to destroy the truth of who Jesus is and to prevent Jesus from establishing His kingdom with His people. Pride and a love of sin drives the world's false worship of Jesus at Christmas.

3) The Greatest Gift We Can Give Jesus is Our Worship at Christmas. The one thing we know about the magi or the "wisemen" at Christmas is that they brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But, before they presented Jesus with these precious and priceless gifts, they first "fell to the ground and worshiped Him." As great and awesome and powerful Jesus is, there is one thing that He will never possess unless we offer it to Him; our worship. The greatest gift that we can give Jesus at Christmas is our worship and that should be the focus of our hearts this time of year.