

The Story of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

The story of the wise men is a story that is shrouded in mystery. They show up in Matthew 2:1 and disappear in verse 12, leaving behind many unanswered questions.

The wise men's journey is one of FAITH.

The wise men's journey is one of WORSHIP.

The wise men's journey is one of CHANGE.

Who were the Magi? They were the professors and philosophers of their day. They were brilliant and highly educated scholars who were trained in medicine, history, religion, prophecy and astronomy. They were also trained in what we would call astrology.

Why have they traveled so far from home? It was a journey of a thousand miles from Persia to Israel.

Matthew 2:2 adds a detail that has baffled and intrigued Bible scholars and astronomers for 2,000 years: "We have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." What was "His star in the east?" What did they see and how did they know it was His star and how did they connect it with Israel? Let me take the mystery a step further. A star alone would not tell the Magi all they needed to know. They knew enough to come to Bethlehem to seek a baby born King of the Jews. They didn't get that from the skies.

THREE ABIDING TRUTHS

1. If the Wise Men can find Jesus, then so can you.

Think of how many barriers they had to cross to get to Jesus. There was a culture barrier, a distance barrier, a language barrier, a racial barrier, a religious barrier, not to speak of a hostile king and indifferent religious leaders. It wasn't easy for them to find Jesus, but they did. If they found Him, then so can you.

2. If God can use a star to reach these pagan astrologers, then he can use anything to reach anybody.

Sometimes we despair of seeing our friends and family come to Christ because nothing we say seems to have the slightest effect on them. This story ought to give us great hope. Our God is infinitely creative in the things He can use to break through to people who seem to be so far from him. He can use a star, a book, a tract, a television show, a song, a bow and arrow, a chance comment, or anything He desires. If God can reach the Wise Men, he can reach anybody.

3. If the Wise Men offered Jesus gifts fit for a king, then so should we.

It is good to give gifts to each other; it is even better to give gifts to Jesus. It is good to show our love to those we love; it is even better to show love to the One who loved us when we were unlovely.