

Jesus is Hope

A Christmas Sermon Series

Sunday Morning, December 18, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Jesus is Hope for the Wise and Wealthy

Message Text: Matthew 2:1-11

Introduction:

Matthew introduces us to some Christmas characters who were wealthy, wise men. They were foreign dignitaries whose profession was to provide insight and counsel to royalty based in part on their study of the stars. Similar to the experience of Daniel, these men would have known the opulence of being in the presence of a king. However, neither wealth nor wisdom had been able to satisfy the deepest cravings of their hearts. Today we will see how they found hope in Jesus Himself.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

1. The Hunger they Had for _____ (1-10)

A. They were Diligent to _____ (1-2)

Matthew 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

NOTE: Likely these men traveled from Babylon, a center of astrology and astronomy. (550+ miles)

QUOTE: The fact that these magi undertook the long journey to Jerusalem in order to discover the newborn “King of the Jews,” whose star they had seen, indicates that they were not Jews, but also that the great Messianic hope of the Jews, a hope in which they as Gentiles had place and part, had been communicated to them by Jews and had fascinated their hearts.—Lenski

See Daniel 2:48, 5:11



Remember to grab
Christmas invites and
tracts to give out this
week!

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sermon notes



THE TIMING OF THE MESSIAH'S COMING AND CRUCIFIXION.
(Daniel 9:24-27 – Prophecy of Seventy Weeks)

THE PROPHECY OF THE STAR FROM BALAAM'S DIVINELY COERCED
BLESSING UPON ISRAEL.

*Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh:
There shall come a Star out of Jacob, And a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, And
shall smite the corners of Moab, And destroy all the children of Sheth.*

See Isaiah 47:13, Psalm 8:3–4

*Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are
clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and
Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

B. They were Undeterred by the _____ (3-8)

*Matthew 2:3–8 When Herod the king had heard these things, 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 demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they
said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And
thou Beth-lehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda:
for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then
Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what
time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search
diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again,
that I may come and worship him also.*

DEFINITION—TROUBLED: distress or affliction or danger or need

HEROD DEMANDED ANSWERS FROM THE SCRIPTURES (4-6)

HEROD THE GREAT reigned from 73^{BC} - 4^{AD}. He was a paranoid
tyrant.

*Micah 5:2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, Though thou be little among the
thousands of Judah, Yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be
ruler in Israel; Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*

HEROD PRETENDED TO BE A GENUINE SEEKER OF THE MESSIAH (7-8)

*Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with
all your heart.*

C. They Directed by Divine _____ (9b-10)

Matthew 2:9–10 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw 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 exceeding great joy

THE WORD OF GOD IN JERUSALEM (MICAH 5:2)

THE STAR GUIDING THEM TO BETHLEHEM

QUOTE: God always confirms His will through His Word. Wise men wait on the Word. —Scott Pauley

Psalms 119:133 Order my steps in thy word: And let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Proverbs 3:5–7 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. *6* In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths. *7* Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

2. The _____ they Found in the Messiah (11)

A. Demonstrated in their _____ (11a)

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him...

Philippians 2:9–10 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: *10* That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

DEFINITION—WORSHIPPED: bow down; to ascribe worth; to reverence.

See *Revelation 5:12–14*

NOTE: They did not worship _____, they worshipped Jesus.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

QUOTE: We must never rest until everything inside us worships God. —A W Tozer

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

QUOTE: It is not enough for us to be where God is worshipped, if we do not ourselves worship him. —Matthew Henry

B. Demonstrated in their _____ (11b)

Matthew 2:11b ... and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH — *costly gifts worthy of a King*

NOTE: It is likely that these gifts provided the resources for Joseph, Mary and Jesus to travel and stay in Egypt. (2:14)

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart. —*Christina Georgina Rossetti*

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Conclusion

Psalm 33:22 Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, According as we hope in thee.

Questions to Consider

Is my hope in my wealth or my desire for wealth?

Is my hope in my own wisdom to get through life?

Do I demonstrate my hope in Christ in worship of Christ.

