First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

We Have Come to Worship Him!

Message #4 in the sermon series Silent Night, Holy Night Sunday, December 21, 2025 Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

6 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.' "

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his

mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."

¹⁶ Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. ¹⁷ Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A cry was heard in Ramah weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead."

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

²¹ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²² But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³ So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2:1-23, NLT)

In this passage, we see 3 responses to the birth of Jesus:

| ۱. | Herod | responded | in | | | | _ to |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Jesus | and sought | to | | | Him. | |
| 2. | The | religious | leaders | s res | pon | ded | with |
| | | | and | made | no | mover | nent |
| | | | Jesus at | all. | | | |
| | ³⁹ "You s | search the Scri | intures heca | ause vou | think | they give | e vou |

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. (John 5:39-40, NLT)

| Warning! It is possible to know the | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3. | The wisemen traveled a long distance just to | | | | | | |
| | Jesus and to bring Him their | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | $^{\rm 13}{\rm You}$ will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13, ESV) | | | | | | |
| Responding to Jesus this Christmas: | | | | | | | |
| • | I my sinfulness. | | | | | | |
| | $^{\rm 9}{\rm But}$ if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. | | | | | | |
| • | I (repent of) my sin. | | | | | | |
| | ¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (2 Corinthians 7:10, NLT) | | | | | | |
| • | I that Jesus Christ paid the | | | | | | |
| | penalty for my sins when He died on the cross, | | | | | | |
| | that He rose again, and is alive today. | | | | | | |
| • | I Jesus Christ into my life. | | | | | | |
| | ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (John 1:12-13, NLT) | | | | | | |
| • | I Jesus Christ as my Lord | | | | | | |
| | and Savior. | | | | | | |

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right

with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13, NLT)