

We three kings of Orient are... a song about the wise men, the magi who followed a star and journeyed to worship the Christ. (Matthew 2:1-12) They were on a mission to see the Savior. Ironically it wasn't his birth they attended to. It was a bit later that these prestigious men would behold the Christ child. They would see Him and not leave empty handed. They would encounter God in human likeness, peace on earth, the One who would transform a world of darkness. We carefully include them in our nativity ensemble, placing them together in the story of such an awesome beginning for mankind. This time truly is an event to behold. Unlike the traditional Christmas celebration, for us Christians, the nativity triumphs the reindeer and the jolly fellow we have all grown up to love.

Why did they go? What was their purpose? Internet and AT&T wasn't around and texting Mary wasn't possible. Skype wasn't available and the World Wide Web wasn't even a thought. To see the Christ was a personal experience. It would be a holy encounter that nothing else could replicate. To see Him was worth the endless miles to walk and the countless days to endure. To behold his countenance, to see his glory, and to experience His grace, this was what they sought, this was what they were living for. This was their chance to see the One who was about to change the world.

Well as I sit and reflect, I am amazed of that wonderful day when God made for us salvation for all. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

Just like Easter, this would be the dawning of that day, the triumph of eternity. For soon He would grow up and lead 12 and give His life for millions. The cross would be an example of love and sacrifice. Jesus would be for the repentant to follow, yet they would remain alive and constant, living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God. They would be the people affected by His grace, a people living countless days in display of His radiance. A people who would give testimony of the One who had redeemed them, saved them, and delivered them from sins dread sway.

This Christmas Season, as you look to the sky and see the brightest star in the distance and think of God's love and peace, remember the journey begins with you. *"For we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 3:18). The Lord has come and he has made His mark on mankind, now it's our turn to shine for Him to seek Christ and to testify of His majesty and saving power. Today the three kings are you and I, we are the ones who have experienced Him and believe. Now go tell it on the mountain, go over the Hills and go everywhere; and may the God of the Universe fill you through and through and may His grace and peace overshadow you now and forevermore.

God bless and have a Merry Christmas!

love,

Pastor Art and Tanya