

They Saw the Star

Աստղը Տեսան

Matthew 2:1-12

One of the things people do in some cultures at the midnight of the new year is to gamble. I hate this tradition, because as a pastor I have seen how gambling destroys families. And I understand that the reason they gamble is to see if there are lucky. If they are lucky and winning, their upcoming year will be prosperous. How tragic is this terrible mindset?

When I became a Christian in my teenage years, a Christian man warned me about the widespread culture of reading horoscopes, visiting fortune tellers, or reading coffee cups... He told me, "Don't play with fire. Our faith in Christ is sufficient." We believe in a sovereign God, who is the Creator of the universe and of you and me. I am in the hands of my Creator. God was with you and will be with you in coming days and years. Why do we need other "means" to tell us about our luck, about our future?

In today's passage we have the Magi, the Wisemen who studied stars. How in the world they knew about the Messiah? We don't know. Perhaps during the exile of the Israelites in Babylon or Assyria they encountered Jewish literature.

Let us read the passage:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Mag from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (Matthew 2:1-12 NIV11)

A few weeks ago Badveli Mike preached about the Magi, or the Wisemen. The title was, ***“Not we have to, but we get to worship Jesus.”***

Today I want to read the same passage and stress the following:

1. The Nature Was their Guidance

The first thing I see here that God can use nature, the star and the planets to send a message. Astronomists say that around August 12, 3 BC a conjunction occurred between Venus and Jupiter. Something happened in the sky...

Those men saw a star, a natural phenomenon that was a sign for the birth of the King of the Jews.

When they arrived to Jerusalem (of course, kings are born in Jerusalem), they asked around.

“We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Where is this king?

Now the news arrived to Herod’s ears. He was a paranoid person anyway. This news of the newborn king made him even worse.

The next event is interesting. He asks the **chief priests and teachers of the law** to research this news.

2. The Word of God Was their Guidance

The chief priests and the teachers of the law quote from the OT writings like **Micah 5:2 and 2 Samuel 5:2**

***“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*** (Matt 2:6 NIV11)

Herod calls the Wisemen.

As if he is interested to know about this new king.

They hear about the little town called Bethlehem from those religious people. Please notice the star was a sign to bring them to Jerusalem. The Word of God guides them to the exact place, **Bethlehem**.

“GPS” can maybe bring you to the location, but not the biblical location.

Only after they heard about the prophecy, and after they believed that this is true, they were led to the exact location by the guidance of God. And this all is happening to fulfill the prophecies of the OT.

The Gospel of Matthew is full of statements like this:

“And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet...” (Matt 2:15)

Beautiful, God is in charge...

-How strange, those *odars* guys, the foreigners, believe in the prophecies of the Lord and follow the guidance of God.

-The chief priests, the teachers of the law, Herod himself...How come they did not go to see the newborn king?

-Knowledge about something is not enough. **Faith**. The Magi believed and moved forward.

3. A Miracle from God Was their Guidance.

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. (Matthew 2:9 NIV11)

We see here that after they heard the prophecy of God, after they believed in that, God used a miracle to guide them. The star led them to the exact location, not just Bethlehem, but to the house. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. They witnessed God’s hand over this phenomenon.

Welcome to year 2022.

God’s Word is your guidance.

Obey and Believe in His Word and Promises.

Notice how God will do miracles in your life.

This is what happened with the Magi or the Wisemen.

4. They Worshiped the King

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and

presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11
NIV11)

Oh, what else should one do...

To bow down and worship him.

What was the original question of the Magi?

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Have you realized that they are not seeking a king which is appointed like Herod?

They were seeking a king which was born king.

What king are you seeking?

What are you seeking in 2022?

A Covid free year. I hope so, not likely.

A prosperous year. I hope so, but why prosperity? What are you going to do with your wealth?

I pray that my congregation will have a blessed year, a healthy year.

Why not let us seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything we come to its place, according to God's will.

Welcome to 2022. Let us seek the King which was born king in our lives daily. He will guide us.

Amen