



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Three Wise Guys

The Desire

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 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.” (The following verses are from Matthew 2:1-12.)

The earliest Greek translation found in scripture for magi (wise men or kings) is found in Daniel 2:2, 10, where they translated the term astrologer. The Bible does not give their names nor how many there were who sought Christ. However, since 500 A.D., it is believed that there were three with the names of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They were most likely from Persia. They knew of the writings from the prophet Daniel, who had been the chief of their court during his captivity in Persia. Daniel 9:24-27 gave a timeline and Numbers 24:17 gives the area for the Christ child.¹ These men had a strong **desire** to see the King of the Jews for they traveled 800 to 900 miles, which would take about 36 days one way.

The Word

“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, 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.”

It is interesting that a ruler who hated God, went to the priests and the **Word** of God to find the answers.

The Decision

“Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, 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.”

Based on the Word, the magi made the **decision** to go and search diligently for the Christ child to worship Him.

The Joy

“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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

In 6 B.C., there was an alignment of Jupiter, Saturn, the moon and the sun in the constellation of Aries, which fits the Gospel's description of the Star of Bethlehem. This event could have continued every night in a similar location for weeks.² There is always **joy**, when you put Jesus first, then **others**, then **yourself** last.

The Worship

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: When they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, myrrh.”

Notice, it states house and young child. Some celebrate their visit 12 days after Christ's birth which is called Epiphany. It is possible that Christ could have been several years old. When they did find Him, they fell down, **worshipped** and gave gifts. Gold symbolized virtue, frankincense symbolized prayer, and myrrh symbolized suffering.³ Today, the greatest gift of worship we can give Christ is ourselves.

The Obedience

“And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.”

After we accept Christ as our Lord, He will instruct us in the way that we should go. With the Holy Spirit, we then chose to trust and **obey**. I am sure that when the magi returned, they shared the exciting news of Christ the King.



Charles Stambaugh

Like the magi, we need to have the desire, the Word, and the decision to find Christ. Then we will be filled with joy, worship and obedience. Discover the reason for the season.



¹gotquestions.org/three-wise-men.html ²space.com/star-of-bethlehem ³en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Magi

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