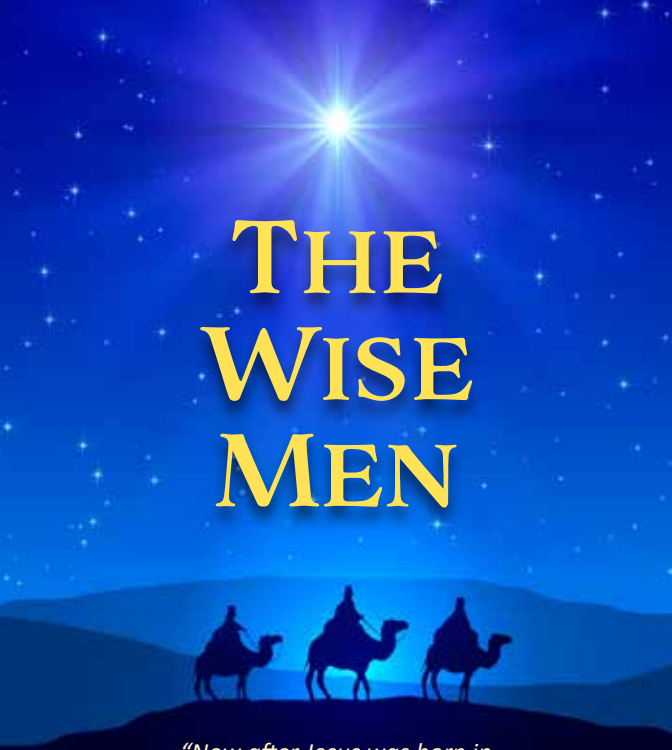
The Wise Men



"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him'"

(MATTHEW 2:1-2).

The wise men (Magi) were elites of Persian society, whose influence made them considered a caste above the others. In addition to being wealthy, educated, and powerful, they were considered the wisest in regard to political decisions, as they could advise on whether someone would be a good ruler.

A group of them discovered that the Lord Jesus had been born, but how? Because they were astronomers (not astrologers) and scientists, one day they focused on a very different star than the ones they were accustomed to seeing. The Bible describes it as a star that appeared in the east. They were not only men of science, but also men of faith. Perhaps they knew what Balaam had prophesied almost 1,500 years earlier: ***"I see Him, but not now;… A Star shall come out of Jacob"*** (NUMBERS 24:17). The word "star" in Hebrew is also used to refer to a prince.

Eventually, they arrive in Jerusalem assuming that it must be there. Unfortunately, the Jews did not recognize the Scriptural wonder which had taken place, because they were not seeking God as the Magi were. Likewise, if we do not seek God in His Word, as His Word teaches,

we will also never find Him. Are you seeking Jesus Christ as the Bible teaches?

Based on what the prophet Micah wrote some 500 years earlier: ***"Bethlehem... for out of thee [you] shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel"*** (MATTHEW 2:6 KJV), the Magi were told to go to Bethlehem to find the Child. When they heard this they set out toward Bethlehem, following the star to the very house where the Lord was. Tradition places the Magi in the stable, but the Bible says, ***"the star... went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was... when they had come into the house"*** (MATTHEW 2:9,11). From the time they left the east until they arrived where the Child was, several months passed, perhaps five or more. Shortly after, King Herod ordered the killing of children under two years old, calculating that Jesus' age would be within that range.

Notice that the Magi were not kings, but those who recognized kings. This is important to note, because it is exactly what they do. They offered the Child gifts that only kings are entitled to when they are recognized as sovereigns: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They also bowed down and worshipped the Child, knowing that

He was not only the King of the Jews, but the very God of Heaven incarnate.

What a tremendous lesson these wise men teach us, humbling themselves before God incarnate, a Child held in Mary's arms, but Who was holding the universe! And you? Have you recognized the Son of God as your Lord and Saviour? That Child, the sovereign King from eternity, is the eternal Son of God who became man to die in our place on Calvary. ***"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*** (ISAIAH 53:5). He suffered for our sins on the cross.

The Magi returned to their homeland, rejoicing to have met the Saviour King. And you? **Do you know Him personally?**

- by Harry Rodriguez

All Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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