

Journey to the Nativity



Dr. Jeff King
Christ Lutheran Church
Southwick, Massachusetts

Part 1: A King Like No Other

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. At about that time, some Wisemen from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in far-off eastern lands and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:1-2)

King Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, and all Jerusalem was filled with rumors. He called a meeting of the Jewish religious leaders. "Did the prophets tell us where the Messiah would be born?" he asked.

"Yes, in Bethlehem," they said, "for this is what the prophet Micah wrote: '*O little town of Bethlehem, you are not just an unimportant Judean village, for a Ruler shall rise from you to rule my people Israel.*'" (Matthew 2:3-6)

Then Herod sent a private message to the Wisemen, asking them to come to see him; at this meeting, he found out the exact time when they first saw the star. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search for the Child. And when you find Him, come back and tell me, so I can go and worship Him too!" (Matthew 2:7-8)

After speaking with Herod, the Wisemen started out again. And look! The star appeared to them again, standing over Bethlehem. Their joy knew no bounds! (Matthew 2:9-10)

Entering the house where the Child and Mary His mother were, they threw themselves down before Him, worshipping. Then they opened their presents and gave Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11-12)

Three Things the Wisemen Teach Us

1. _____ is an act of worship.

God's Guidelines

- Give _____ (Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23)
- Give _____ (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- Give _____ (2 Corinthians 9:7)

2. God will _____ our act of worship

That night, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the Child and His mother," the angel said, "and stay there until I tell you to return, for King Herod is going to try to kill the Child." So, he got up, took the Child and His mother and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. (Matthew 2:13-14)

3. Nothing is more important than _____

The Wisemen had to travel hundreds of miles to find Jesus. But you don't have to. Jesus is right here. He is closer than the air you breathe. You don't have to find Jesus – He found you.

Will you worship Him today? Will you honor Him? Will you tell Him, "Jesus, You are my King, a King like no other."