



Wisemen's Christmas Part 1
Fulfilling God's Will

Matthew 2:1-12

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Objective Sentence: Everyone can worship the Lord by following in the footsteps of the wisemen who left the east; traveled west and worshipped Jesus the king of the world.

Introduction: In December of 1842 Samuel Morse an American painter and inventor of the single wire telegraph system, strung wires between two committee rooms in the U.S. Capitol building and sent messages back and forth to demonstrate his telegraph system to Congress. The Congress then appropriated \$30,000 to Morse for the construction of an experimental 38 mile telegraph line between Washington DC and Baltimore. On May 24, 1844 the line, stretching from the Supreme Court chamber in the basement of the Capitol to Mount Clare B&O Railroad Station (Baltimore and Ohio), carried the message—a history making world changing message derived from a portion of the Bible verse in **Numbers 23:23** *What hath God wrought!!! Or as we would say it today--see what God has done!* Morse was once asked the question, “When you were doing your experiments on the telegraph, did you ever come to a place where you did not know what to do next?” “Oh, yes, more than once,” replied Mr. Morse. “At such times, what did you do?” The inventor answered, “That is a matter of which the public knows nothing. When I could not see my way clearly, I prayed for more light.” **Psalms 37:23**, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.” “Steps” mean “his course of life; the way in which he goes.” There is nothing in the Hebrew for “good,” so the original reads, “The steps of a man.” The word for “man” is *geber*, meaning, “a strong man, a conqueror.” The idea is that even the most powerful man must be guided and supported by the Lord. When this is the case, “God delights in his way.” He is pleased with him, and he lives under His blessings, care, and favor.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

- I. Illumination** (*Matt. 2:4-5* When Herod 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, "this is what the prophet has written ...)
- A.** *The Wise Men were probably members of a learned religious class from an area in what is now the country of Iran. They specialized in astrology, medicine, and natural science. Eerdman: Like Daniel and his companions, they belonged to the learned, the sacerdotal caste; they had been instructed in the wisdom of the East ... especially ... in the study of astronomy. Their learning had not degenerated into the magic and the pretensions of supernatural power so common in their time. Their education was sanctified by a longing after God that elevated and refined their character. Their visit occurred when Jesus was between 40 days (Matthew 2:22) and two years old (Matthew 2:16). The importance of this story is that (1) Jesus is worthy of royal honor from all humanity, and (2) Gentiles as well as Jews are included in God's redemptive plan.*
- 1. Word Guidance** (*Matt.2:4-6* When Herod 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. "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.
- a. *Pastor Dan:* The majority of God's guidance comes through our simple obedience to the Biblical Principles contained in the Word of God.
 - b. **Mark 12:30-31** Love God—Love People
 - c. **Mal. 3:10** **Luke 6:38** Bring all the tithes—give
 - d. **Eph. 5:18** be filled with the Holy Spirit **Eph. 6:18** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion
 - e. *Pastor Dan:* The wise men received a supernatural sign or revelation from God in the form of a star. This star, a manifestation similar to the miracle of the fire and cloud God sent to Moses when he journeyed through the wilderness. This star guided them to Jerusalem in the direction of Christ's place of birth. There they meet with Herod and received further guidance from the priests and teachers of the law who quoted **Mic. 5:2**, ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet has written. One tradition says that the Wisemen came from Iran (it is 970 miles from Tehran to Jerusalem).
 - f. *Thomas Adams:* The [Word of God] the Bible is to us what the star was to the wise men; but if we spend all our time in gazing upon it, observing its motions, and admiring its splendor, without being led to Christ by it, the use of it will be lost on us.
 - g. **Ps. 119: 105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a ...
 - h. **Ps. 119:130** The entrance of Your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
 - i. **Mat. 14:25** Jesus said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
 - j. **John 6:63** It is the Holy Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits you nothing. The words I ...
 - k. **Eph. 1:16-18** (Paul) making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and

revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling

2. **Holy Spirit Guidance** (**Matt.2:1-2; 9-11** *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi 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."* ⁹*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen ... rose and 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.*)
- a. *(Author Unknown)* After Jerusalem the star appeared and its guidance was distinct, more certain; it stood over where the young child was. The leading of God's Holy Spirit becomes clearer and more definite as the believer clings to the Word and draws nearer to the end of their revelation journey.
 - b. *Pastor Dan:* The Will of God unfolds piece by piece, step by step and event by event (**Isaiah 28:10**).
 - c. **Ro. 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit ...*
 - d. **1 Cor. 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.
 - e. **1 Kings 19:11-13** Still small voice (What are you doing here? (Wind, Fire, Earthquake)
 - f. *Frostproof*—You don't belong here. Lakeland—I see in you that which you don't see in yourself. Frostproof—To be led by your spirit. Illinois—Smooth out your rough place and rough up your smooth places. Mulberry—when we drove in the parking lot the Holy Spirit let me know in my heart that we were going Pastor Mulberry Church.
 - g. *Oswald Chambers:* It is not that we don't want to hear God; it's that we are not devoted in the right areas of life. If I have not developed and nurtured a devotion to hearing God, I can only hear His voice at certain times
 - h. *Author Unknown:* The voice of the God's Spirit is as gentle as a summer breeze, so gentle that unless you are living in complete fellowship and oneness with God, you will not hear it. The sense of warning and restraint that the Spirit gives come to us in the most amazingly gentle ways. If you are not sensitive enough to detect his voice, you will quench it, and your spiritual life will be impaired.

Closing and Invitation: *Science Speaks; Peter Stoner:* In this book Mr. Stoner applies the modern science of probability to just eight prophecies regarding Christ. He says, "The chance that any man might have ... fulfilled all eight prophecies is one in 10 to the 17th power—one in 100,000,000,000,000,000" (one hundred quadrillionth). Stoner suggests that "if we take silver dollars and lay 100 quadrillion on the face of Texas, they will cover all of the state 2 feet deep in coins. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly... blindfold a man and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up that one marked silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one?" Stoner concludes, "Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing those eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man ... providing they wrote them in their own wisdom."