

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### “THE WISE MEN SEEK FOR JESUS UNTIL THEY FIND HIM”

[Parua Bay CF - 21/12/97 - EKB]

#### Reading: *Mat 2:1-12*

1. There can be **no Easter** unless there has been a **Christmas**.
2. **At Christmas the Eternal “Son of God,”** the Second Person of the Godhead left the Throne of Heaven, and took upon Himself humanity in the womb of the Virgin, Mary. He grew up as a man in the family of Joseph and Mary. At the end of His ministry, He gave His life as a perfect, sinless sacrifice for our sins. Thus through faith in Him, and in obedience to Him, we are able to receive forgiveness of all sins, and His free gift of eternal life, as a son or daughter of the Living God.
3. So now to these **Wise Men!** As we meditate on the passage we read, it becomes clear to us, that these men had a close fellowship with God. They saw the star, they knew what it meant, and they knew where to go to find the One for whom the star shone.
4. They were **able to hear the voice of God**, as it says in *verse 12*. “Then being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod...” God spoke to them. They heard His voice and acted on what He said to them.
5. More than that, they knew the Old Testament Scriptures, that the **Christ, Messiah, the King of the Jews** was to come to Israel. There are dozens of prophecies in the OT of the **Coming King and Saviour**. Perhaps these men read *Jer 23:5,6*, “...I will raise up to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper...”, or *Ezek 34:23,24*, “I will establish one shepherd over them,... My servant David...and I, the Lord will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them...” (King David, of fame for killing Goliath, had been dead for 100s of years, and in these scriptures “David” is a synonym for “Messiah”) Maybe they read *Is 9:6,7*, or *Is 7:14*, *Dan 9:25*, *Ps 2:2*, *Zech 6:12,13*, *Zech 9:9*, *Hos 3:5*, *Gen 3:15*.
6. Beyond that they knew **He had come** and that the prophetic word had been fulfilled. So they came to Jerusalem saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews...?” *Mat 2:2*. They knew God’s timetable!
7. The Greek word for wise men is “magoi” and is explained to us as “Persian astronomers or priests,” in Young’s Concordance, or as “people famous for studying the stars...” in the Contemporary English Version of the Bible (1995). When they saw the star they knew that God was saying to them, the prophecies of the Scriptures concerning the Coming Messiah, King and Saviour, have been fulfilled. **Arise, follow the star.**
8. The **star was not an ordinary “star”** such as Venus, (actually a planet), or a true star such as Sirius, it was a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God, that went before them and led them to the very house where Jesus was, *Mat 2:9*. Probably it was only 100 to 200 feet above them, and when it stood over the particular house, they could identify which house in Bethlehem it was. 1500 years before, Israel wandered for 40 years in the Sinai desert, and were led by a supernatural pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, for all to see, *Ex 40:38*, *Ex 13:21*.
9. The wise men **knew that Messiah, the King of Israel, was true God** come in the flesh of humanity to be our Saviour, and they came to Worship Him as God, and present to Him their most precious possessions, *Mat 2:2*, *Mat 2:11*.

10. They travelled through heat, danger and tiredness. As they were carrying treasure, they probably had others with them as a protection.
11. Politically they were “heavyweights.” As they rode into Jerusalem asking, “**Where is He?**” *Mat 2:2*, the whole city from Herod down, were stirred deeply, *Mat 2:3*.
12. The chief priests and scribes knew the answer. “In Bethlehem,” they said, quoting the prophecy from *Mic 5:2*.
13. So they continued on until they came to Jesus.
14. When they found Him, they fell at His feet **in worship and adoration**. They opened their treasures and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.  
**Gold** signifies His Royalty and Kingship as King of Kings Lord of Lords.  
**Frankincense** is a type of incense that is burnt as an offering to God and acknowledges His Divinity as true God, *Ex 30:37*.  
**Myrrh** is a spice and was used in preparing Jesus’ body for burial, *Jn 19:39*.  
**Myrrh** was a sign of Jesus’ death for our salvation on the Cross.
15. The wise men were not the only ones who knew the Messiah had come.  
Mary knew *Lk 1:26-38*      Joseph knew *Mat 1:18-25*  
Elizabeth knew *Lk 1:41-45*      Simeon knew *Lk 2:25-32*  
The shepherds knew *Lk 2:8-20*      Anna knew *Lk 2:36-38*
16. As the wise men came to Jesus **so must we**. The star for us is the preaching of the Gospel, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. **Jesus Christ is the “Bright and Morning Star,”** *Rev 22:16, (Num 24:17)*.
17. **Let us all seek for Him** as the wise men did, and when we find Him, let us fall at His feet and worship Him, presenting to Him all our gold and worshipping Him as our Lord and God.
18. (Appeal strongly to those present to come and surrender their lives to Christ.)