



Lesson 5 – We Have Seen His Star

Based on Matthew 2

- 1) Who were the strangers that made an unexpected visit to see Jesus as a baby?

Matthew 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came _____ men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his _____ in the east, and are come to worship him.

As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures.

- 2) What did Baalam prophesy while he was blessing God's people?

Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a _____ out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

In their own land were treasured prophetic writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher. Balaam belonged to the magicians, though at one time a prophet of God; by the Holy Spirit he had foretold the prosperity of Israel and the appearing of the Messiah; and his prophecies had been handed down by tradition from century to century. But in the Old Testament the Saviour's advent was more clearly revealed. The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

The wise men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared, and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining angels, but of this the wise men were ignorant.

- 3) How did Abraham react to his calling?

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not _____ whither he went.

So did these Gentiles go forth to find the promised Saviour. The Eastern country abounded in precious things, and the magi did not set out empty-handed. It was the custom to offer presents as an act of homage to princes or other personages of rank, and the richest gifts the land afforded were borne as an offering to Him in whom all the families of the earth were to be blessed.

- 4) How did Herod react when he saw this retinue of wealthy strangers?

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was _____, and all Jerusalem with him.

With eager steps they press onward, confidently expecting the Messiah's birth to be the joyful burden of every tongue. But their inquiries are in vain. Entering the holy city, they repair to the temple. To their amazement they find none who seem to have a knowledge of the newborn king.



5) What did Herod do next?

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he _____ of them where Christ should be born.

The indifference with which the priests turned to the rolls of prophecy enraged the jealous tyrant. He thought them trying to conceal their knowledge of the matter. With an authority they dared not disregard, he commanded them to make close search, and to declare the birthplace of their expected King.

6) What was their response?

Matthew 2:5-6 And they said unto him, In _____ 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 _____, that shall rule my people Israel.

7) How did the priests and scribes feel about this inquiry?

They would not even go to Bethlehem to see whether these things were so. And they led the people to regard the interest in Jesus as a fanatical excitement. Here began the rejection of Christ by the priests and rabbis. From this point their pride and stubbornness grew into a settled hatred of the Saviour.

8) Who is the Gospel message meant for?

Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the _____, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

The magi had no idea what to expect. Such wonderful news and the land with the miracle happening inside of it knew it not. But they pressed on in faith.

After the long journey they had been disappointed by the indifference of the Jewish leaders, and had left Jerusalem less confident than when they entered the city. At Bethlehem they found no royal guard stationed to protect the newborn King. None of the world's honored men were in attendance.

9) What did they do when they found Jesus?

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and _____ him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

10) Did the Wise Men honor Herod's request?

Matthew 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to _____, they departed into their own country another way.

In a dream they received a divine message to hold no further communication with him. Avoiding Jerusalem, they set out for their own country by another route.

When God enters your life, you go out a different way than you came in.



11) What were the instructions for Joseph and Mary?

Matthew 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the _____ of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Joseph obeyed without delay, setting out on the journey by night for greater security.

Satan was bent on shutting out the divine light from the world, and he used his utmost cunning to destroy the Saviour. But He who never slumbers nor sleeps was watching over His beloved Son.

12) What did Jeremiah prophesy about the land near Bethlehem?

Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be _____ for her children, because they were not.

Herod in Jerusalem impatiently awaited the return of the wise men. As time passed, and they did not appear, his suspicions were roused. The unwillingness of the rabbis to point out the Messiah's birthplace seemed to indicate that they had penetrated his design, and that the magi had purposely avoided him.

He was maddened at the thought. Craft had failed, but there was left the resort to force. He would make an example of this child-king.

This act of cruelty was one of the last that darkened the reign of Herod. Soon after the slaughter of the innocents, he was himself compelled to yield to that doom which none can turn aside. He died a fearful death.

13) What did God do for the family while they were in Egypt?

Matthew: 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of _____: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go _____: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Matthew 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a _____.

Joseph chose an out of the way place to raise the child. He didn't return to the land of his nativity because Herod's sons had taken the place of their father and wanted to make a name for themselves by seeking revenge on their fathers' enemies. This was less of a factor to the north in Galilee where another less vicious son of Herod ruled.

God could not trust His beloved Son with men, even while carrying forward His work for their salvation. He commissioned angels to attend Jesus and protect Him till He should accomplish His mission on earth, and die by the hands of those whom He came to save.



Can you see that God is capable of keeping you safe even in troublesome times?

Are you interested in seeing Him work out His plans for you?

When is the time to let God be in control of your destiny?

