

Advent 2021: God's Calling and Provision # 4

“Expectation”

Message Notes, December 19, 2021

Stargazing at Heartland Camp

Matthew 2:1-2 (LB)

¹Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. At about that time some astrologers from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“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.”

- ✧ Who were these astrologers from the east? → *magus*
- ✧ How did they know about the sign of the star? Why were they concerned about this newborn King of the Jews and why would they want to worship him?

Daniel 2:48-49

⁴⁸Then the king made Daniel very great; he gave him many valuable gifts and appointed him to be ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. ⁴⁹Then, at Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as Daniel's assistants, to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon; Daniel served as chief magistrate in the king's court.

The Universal Scale of God's Eternal Plan

Genesis 12:1-3

¹God had told Abram, “Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to. ²If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; and the entire world will be blessed because of you.”

Matthew 2:3-6

³King Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, and all Jerusalem was filled with rumors. ⁴He called a meeting of the Jewish religious leaders. “Did the prophets tell us where the Messiah would be born?” he asked.

⁵“Yes, in Bethlehem,” they said, “for this is what the prophet Micah wrote: ⁶‘O little town of Bethlehem, you are not just an unimportant Judean village, for a Governor shall rise from you to rule my people Israel.’”

- Herod's longstanding fear of being usurped
- He was aware of the Messiah prophecies, which were known of throughout the Roman world

Matthew 2:7-8

⁷Then Herod sent a private message to the astrologers, asking them to come to see him; at this meeting he found out from them the exact time when they first saw the star. Then he told them, ⁸“Go to Bethlehem and search for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him too!”

- Herod tried to deceive the Magi for his own purposes
- The star had appeared about two years prior to the Magi's arrival in Jerusalem

Matthew 2:9-12

⁹After this interview the astrologers started out again. And look! The star appeared to them again, standing over Bethlehem. ¹⁰Their joy knew no bounds! ¹¹Entering the house where the baby and Mary, his mother, were, they threw themselves down before him, worshipping.

Then they opened their presents and gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² But when they returned to their own land, they didn't go through Jerusalem to report to Herod, for God had warned them in a dream to go home another way.

- ✧ House (*oikia*) an inhabited dwelling, residence
- ✧ Child (*paidion*) young child, little one, not exclusively used of newborn babies
- ✧ The timing of the Magi's arrival in Bethlehem was not right after Jesus was born
- ✧ The gifts of the Magi were typical of those given to kings
- ✧ Those gifts supported the Holy Family when they fled to Egypt to escape Herod

The Scale of Magnitude and Intricacy of God's Plan is Beyond Our Imagination

Calling: to join in worship of the Messiah, the Incarnate One

Provision: God brought Daniel to Babylon and put him in a position of influence

Conclusion:

1. How has God guided you to a place of being a worshipper of Jesus?
2. How is God using you to guide other people to Jesus?