

SIGNS OF THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH, Lk. 2:12,
Mt. 2:2,9

INTRODUCTION: Christmas is always full of surprises.
The First Christmas was the most surprising of all.

I. The Sign of the Swaddling clothes - Lk. 2:12

A. Explanation

1. The ancient practice of swathing infants.
2. Description in the "Emile" of Rousseau:

B. Like any other baby, sharing from the beginning our common experiences.

1. He identified Himself with our pain & suffering.
2. Yet a foretaste of His unique suffering on the cross to atone for our sin.

C. Absence of spectacular, awe-inspiring wonders like those found in heathen mythology.

The Savior is born; and this shall be your sign:
Not the march of a conqueror, not the splendor of a king, but the Babe wrapped in swaddling bands & lying in a manger.

D. The common & ordinary swaddling clothes of sense and time often enclose that which is living, powerful, spiritual & eternal.

1. The Bible
2. Baptism
3. The Lord's Supper
4. The Church
5. The Christian, "treasure in earthen vessels."

E. In the incarnation God came within certain limitations

II. The Sign of the MANGER CRADLE. - Lk. 2:12

A. The mark of the lowliness of his birth

B. He was already bearing the only cross a baby can bear, pain, poverty, and man's contempt.

The Cross lay hidden in the Manger of Bethlehem.

There is nothing in common between Christ and the luxury of wealth or the ostentation of a palace.

III. The Sign of the Shining Star, Mt. 2:2,9.

- A. Here we see educated men, wise sages & philosophers, seeking and finding Christ.
- B. Such should not be neglected in the preaching of the gospel & in the work of the church.
- C. It is a mistake to suppose that the study of science will lead people away from God.
- D. Here good men are found outside the pale of privilege of the Jewish people.
 - 1. God is no respecter of persons.
 - 2. It is wrong to punish/mistreat people of another race for being what God made them.
 - 3. All people are of equal worth in the sight of God and deserve proper respect in the sight of men.
- E. Probably hundreds of thousands of other people saw that same star but saw no special meaning in it.
 - 1. Yet it led them across the desert to kneel before their Savior.
 - 2. Christians can see with the insight of faith what other men do not see.
 - 3. Can you see in this Babe of Bethlehem that God came and revealed Himself through Christ to be the sinner's Savior and the world's hope?