

WISE MEN SEEK THE SAVIOR
THE EASTERN WISE MEN, (A CHRISTMAS SERMON)

MATT. 2:1-11

I. THE SEEKERS

1. WISE MEN

HERE, IN THE MANGER OF BETHLEHEM, WE SEE THE TRUE RELATION OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION. THESE WERE MEN OF RANK, WEALTH, AND LEARNING FROM THE EAST; THEY WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BEST IN THE OLD CIVILIZATION OF THE WORLD. — THE SCIENTISTS OF THEIR TIME. "LET KNOWLEDGE GROW FROM MORE TO MORE, BUT MORE OF REVERENCE IN US DWELL; THAT MIND AND SOUL, ACCORDING WELL, MAY MAKE ONE MUSIC AS BEFORE."

2. THESE MEN WERE FROM THE EAST — GENTILES, NOT JEWS.

THE EASTERN KINGDOMS WERE ENEMIES OF ISRAEL IN THE O.T. GENTILE SCIENTISTS LAY THEIR TROPHIES OF WISDOM AT JESUS' FEET.

3. NOTICE THEIR DILIGENT ENQUIRY, "WHERE IS HE?"

- A. IGNORANCE ADMITTED
- B. FAITH AVOWED
- C. INFORMATION SOUGHT

5. NOTICE THEIR WORTHY MOTIVE, V. 2.
THEY CAME TO WORSHIP HIM.

II. THE SEARCH.

- 1. EARNEST
- 2. SACRIFICIAL; THEY GAVE UP FRIENDS AND HOME
- 3. WEARISOME JOURNEY.
- 4. UNSATISFIED WITH OTHER THINGS.
- 5. PERSEVERING; OVERCOMING MANY DISCOURAGEMENTS

III. THE SIGN.

1. HIS STAR

- 2. GOD ALWAYS HAS SOME MEANS TO GUIDE EARNEST ENQUIRERS
- 3. THIS WAS A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM

- 4. THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHO LOOKED UPON THE SAME STAR, AND SAW NO MEANING IN IT.
- 5. THERE WERE DOUBTLESS VARIOUS GUESSES ABOUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
- 6. THIS REVELATION ALSO BROUGHT GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

IX. the success

- A. THEY FOUND SUCCESS NOT WHERE THEY EXPECTED IT; NOT IN THE CAPITAL, BUT IN AN OBSCURE VILLAGE; NOT EVEN IN THE BEST INN IN BETHLEHEM, BUT IN A MANGER.
- B. THEY WERE NO DOUBT SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE KING OF THE JEWS WAS UNEXPECTED AND UNWELCOME IN THE JEWISH CAPITAL. HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT. WHILE THE EAST WELCOMED HIM, AND EGYPT SHELTERED HIM, JERUSALEM REJECTED HIM.

THERE IS INDIFFERENCE WHERE WE SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED EAGERNESS AND TROUBLE WHERE WE SHOULD HAVE LOOKED FOR JOY.

UNTHOUGHT OF BY HIS OWN, TIL STRANGERS SOUGHT HIM;
A SOURCE OF TROUBLE TO THEM WHEN THEY HEARD OF HIM;
HIS LIFE THREATENED BY THE OCCUPANT OF DAVID'S THRONE,
HE IS SAVED ONLY BY EXILE TO EGYPT, AND, ON RETURNING TO HIS PEOPLE, PASSES OUT OF NOTICE FOR 30 YEARS.

C. YET THESE WISE MEN CAME NOT EMPTY-HANDED, BUT
BROUGHT WITH THEM THEIR SIGNIFICANT GIFTS.
NOTICE THE TYPICAL NATURE OF THESE THREE GIFTS.

(1). THE GOLD IS AN OFFERING TO A KING,
AN OFFERING OF THE OUTER LIFE OF THE
MATERIAL AND VISIBLE WORLD OF NATURE AND
HUMAN ACTION.

IT SYMBOLIZES THE ROYALTY OF CHRIST.

(2). THE FRANKINCENSE REMINDS US OF THE ADORATION OF THE
SOUL WITHIN TO GOD ALONE.

IT SYMBOLIZES THE DEITY OF CHRIST.

(3). THE MYRRH IS USED TO EMBALM DEAD BODIES.

IT REMINDS US OF SUFFERING AND DEATH, AND
TAKES US FORWARD TO THE CROSS.

IT SYMBOLIZES THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST, FOR

IT WAS WHEN HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE FORM OF A MAN,
THE DIVINE WORD BECAME FLESH,
THAT HE BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH,
EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.

CONCLUSION:

SO TODAY CHRIST RECEIVES EITHER HOMAGE OR HATRED;

HOMAGE LIKE THE WISE MEN GAVE TO HIM,

OR HATRED LIKE HEROD GAVE TO HIM.

Cent. Rev. Augsburg - 25 Dec. 64

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