

“Christmas Is the Hope of a New Day” Matthew 2:1-12

MATTHEW 2:1-12 ESV

“[1] Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, [2] saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

[3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; [4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5] They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

[6] “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. [8] And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

[9] After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11] And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”

How would you feel if you thought it was all over but then you find out that it’s not? Imagine walking out of your Doomsday Shelter and right in front of you is the hope of a new day?

This is Christmas...The Hope of a New Day.

THE QUESTION (drives the whole story)

“Where is he who has been **born** king of the Jews? For we saw **his star** when it rose and have come to worship him.”

The star was sent by God and made visible to these men in order that they could find the newborn King, Jesus Christ, and worship him in Bethlehem.

Without Jesus all you can hope for is darkness!

The sighting of this star symbolized that God was making good on his promise to rescue his people.

KING HEROD

Why did God in his sovereignty lead them to Jerusalem instead of straight to Bethlehem?

Herod was a King.... but he wasn’t THE KING.

Herod was threatened. Jesus was a threat to everything that he enjoyed in life...notoriety, acceptance, power, respect. Jesus threatened all of this for Herod.

*Many times we’re just like Herod when our **authority is threatened**. We hate the idea of stepping down, giving in or giving up. Our tendency is to fight, and plan and scheme and deceive just like Herod. It is hard to submit our lives to another King when we are so used to being on the throne ourselves.*

Jesus would prove to be a very different kind of King.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

THE CHIEF PRIEST & SCRIBES

...and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5] They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea...

His advisors stay loyal to King Herod even with the arrival of the New King.

Just because they knew the scriptures, did not mean they knew the Savior.

Like the religious people, some of you might be 5 miles from worshiping Jesus because you are still loyal to your old kings.

THE WISE MEN

1. They were aware that a new king had come.
2. They were willing to leave what was comfortable.
3. They had a desire to worship.
4. When they find Jesus, they respond with joy.
5. They worship him and offer gifts.

As you face the reality of King Jesus...He is our only hope for a new day!