

**SOUTH FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON**

**Lord's Day Morning**

**Date 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns 76, 77, Holy Night, 83, 79.**

**Read: Matthew 2:1-10 Text Matthew 2:1-10**

**Title: The Saviour's Star.**

Matthew chapter 1 and ch 2 while referring to the same event which is the birth of Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, yet they are not the day.

I say that because when you view nativity scenes, whether by picture, performances, decorations, traditionally they have a manger with Mary, Joseph, the babe, animals, shepherds, the wise man, star, and angels, all at the same time, giving the impression that everything took place on the same day Christ was born.

I can understand if this is done just to include all who are involved in the story of Christ's birth.

For instance, if you see pictures of London, and it has all major sites brought together in one picture side by side, but they are not, for instance Tower Bridge is not next to Big Ben, but I understand the Artist wants to include all major sites in London in one picture.

But the time frame from Matthew 1 and 2 covers around two years.

At the end of **Matthew ch 1** there is reference to the birth of Christ – "...***she...brought forth her firstborn Son.***"

Then in **ch.2** the narrative moves forward in time after the Lord's birth, from a newly born infant to a young child, ***Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days***

***of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.***

***The wise men had seen His star.***

**verse 7** records that Herod ***diligently enquired of the wise men***, as to the time the star appeared in the east.

But also **verse 16** records events in Bethlehem and its surrounding areas of all the children from two years old and under.

Therefore, after the star had appeared to the wise men, and when they arrived to worship Him, Christ was no longer a new-born infant.

Rather, He was a young child, and He was no longer in the manger. Instead, He was found in a house and received gifts from the wise men in worship to Him.

But how did the **“wise men from the east,”** know to worship Christ as King.

The answer is recorded in **Matthew 2:2** ***“for we have seen His star in the east,”***.

This star has been given names, such as star of wonder, star of Bethlehem and much more.

But in verse 2 did you see the words ***His Star***, for this reason the star is best referred to as the **Saviour’s Star**.

Now there are many speculations about this star.

But I feel it is best, to keep before us that many miracles occurred in connection with the birth of Christ.

The star was one of them. It was supernatural, It was made for a purpose. It was a divine sign that the Saviour was born and lead to His location.

***I want on this Christmas morning, to minister with the Spirit's help upon the Saviour's Star.***

### **I FIRST, THE SAVIOUR'S STAR WAS A DISTINCT STAR**

**It was the wise men who had seen His star. It is clear this start was distinct start, it was different, it stood out.**

While scripture does not state the exact location of the wise men, but having come from the east, it is suggested by many they came from the area of Babylon, known today is Iraq.

If you recall, when the Children of Israel were sent to Babylon as captives, they dwelt in a pagan society, a godless atmosphere, yet God's people still took a stand for things of God. Daniel was one of those.

(We read in **Daniel 1** he was one the captives chosen to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar, as there "***was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*** )

During his years in Babylon, Daniel prophesied of Christ's Birth, Death and His Return to earth. He could teach science from scripture, always looking for Christ in creation and then in redemption.

Truths relating to the person of Christ were passed through generations, even until the time of these wise men.

This is seen by the fact they said to Herod, “***Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.***”

The reference “***we have seen His star***, goes back to the OT Scriptures, to the law of Moses, in the book of **Numbers 23-24**.

In that account, we read of the King of Moab, who called upon false prophet named Balaam to curse the children of Israel, however each time Balaam tried to curse the Lord’s people, he blessed them instead.

**verse 8** “***how shall I curse whom God has not cursed.***”  
The Salvation that God’s people enjoy, can never be reversed.

The Lord’s people are eternally secure. It is Christ who gives His people everlasting life.

**Numbers 24:10** Balak King of Moab “***said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.***”

One of the curses that turned into a blessing is found in **Numbers 24:17** “***I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star 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.***”

This all centres upon the prophecy concerning the tribe of Judah, one of Jacob’s sons, Joseph’s brother, Genesis 49.

While the context speaks of King David from that tribe of Judah, defeating his enemies, yet the Ultimate fulfilment of

these words, is found in Jesus Christ, who is ***a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.***

***These words point to His ministry as the Saviour of sinners and the King of His people, and the victory found in Him.***

This was a prophecy of Christ under the symbol of a star.

**Rev 22:16** where Christ says “...***I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.***”

Therefore, as these wise men, studied the stars in the night sky, they did so with a view to see the **Star out of Jacob**, they knew what scripture meant by it.

On the night they seen the Saviour’s star, they thought about the word of God, the OT scriptures.

The Saviour’s Star was distinct, it detected the promised Saviour was born.

Scripture concerning His birth was fulfilled.

Let me say how accurate the word of God is, how truthful are its pages. You can trust the word of God.

His word is as His very nature, eternal, and unchanging. There are no errors in the word of God. The word of God is God’s authority.

The Bible is God witness and word to you.

Today God does not use Stars in the sky in the sense of this passage to lead to Christ.

**God uses His word by the ministry of the Holy Spirit to reveal His Son for the spiritual growth of Christians and saving grace for sinners.**

Search the scriptures for they testify of Christ, the Saviour of sinners, the King of His redeemed people.

crown Him today, Lord of your life, worship His Majesty, the King of all authority, the KING of Kings, LORD of Lords.

**II SECOND, THE SAVIOUR'S STAR WAS A DESPISED STAR**

**When the wise men came to Jerusalem they said to Herod the King, in verses 2-3 "where is He that is born King of Jews?, for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When Herod the King heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.**

**v7 Herod when he privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the start appeared. V13 Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.**

As the wise men made the journey to Jerusalem to worship the "King of the Jews", and began their inquiry, they were confronted with great hostility and ignorance from Herod, the people, and especially the religious leaders.

The religious leaders of the day had no interest to seek Christ or to worship Him.

In fact they had not even been watching for His coming.

True they knew about the prophecies concerning Christ's birth, as they answered Herod's question ***where Christ should be born.*** ***5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of***

***Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet*** which is **Micah 5:2.**

The religious leaders could give the right answer; but they had no desire to seek Christ because they were not looking for redeemer of sinners.

The star that showed Christ's birth was fulfilled was despised. Christ Himself was despised and rejected of men.

**Society full of Men and woman want Christianity without Christ, a gospel without grace, a belief without the blood. Theology without truth, They want to worship this season without the Saviour.**

Remember the star confirmed Christ the Saviour King was born.

Maybe your response is like Herod, the people and religious leaders, full of pride, hatred, disinterested. You may know the facts, the story the verses.

I could come to you like Herod and ask ***where Christ should be born.*** And you can give me the answer, yeah I can even ask where did Christ die, and you can still give me the answer.

I must make you aware, Christ was born in order to save sinful men and woman. He is God's salvation; He is God's gift of eternal life.

To despise and reject Him is to seal your doom and everlasting torment in hell.

Christ is the glad tidings of great joy. He is good news, gospel news, the Saviour Christ the Lord, was born to eternal give.

### **III THIRD THE SAVIOUR'S STAR WAS A DIRECTING STAR.**

In **verse 9** "*They departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.*"

**V11** "*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him:*"

The Saviour's star directed the wise men to Christ, and no further.

In worshipping the Saviour, these wise men demonstrated that they possessed Christ as Saviour.

All worship centres upon redemption in Jesus Christ, if He is not central it is not true worship at all.

His star was supernatural, It was a divine sign that the Saviour was born.

It was unlike any other star, as it led the wise men. It went before them, it came and stopped at Christ for them to worship Him.

God directs us by His Spirit to His word, but His direction always points to Christ, whether for Serving the King as believers, or Salvation from the King as sinner.

There is a lesson, don't go outside the word of God to worship Christ, don't stray from the word of God or you will stray from Christ.

Never preach outside the word of God, otherwise you will have gone into by path meadow, into fables and present another way whereby sinners can be saved.



There are churches packed up and down this land today, listening to false preachers in a pulpit who have strayed from the Bible, and the true meaning of Christ's birth.

They preach another gospel, salvation by good works and church ceremonies.

(They attempt to worship God, through their own religious idea, idols, statues. But God will not accept their worship, because no man cometh unto the Father but through Christ. )

(The Saviour Himself testifies in **John 4:23-24** where He, in speaking of true worshippers, reveals that those who worship must do so in spirit and in truth. )

The scriptures of truth testify of Christ as the only Saviour of sinners. There is no peace, forgiveness of sin outside of Christ. He is the way the truth and the life. He was born to give sinners life.

The word of God will always bring you back to Christ.

The star led the wise men to see Christ and worship Him aright.

Oh! to see and worship the Saviour in His house, and each time we read His word, to bow before Him and worship Him crowing Him Lord of All.

Believer has your heart and mind been directed back to the scriptures to worship Christ the King, I pray it so, and stay in scriptures.

Unsaved one, may like the wise men you live all at once, and come to Christ to present yourself to him, who is the King and acknowledge and accept Christ as your Saviour King.