



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

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Lessons From The Wise Men (Kent Heaton)

Matthew is the only writer to record the visit of the wise men. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, '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'" (Matthew 2:1-2). These magi were from a country to the east of Jerusalem that is unidentified. Without a country of origin, we know nothing of their nationality and background. Matthew speaks briefly of their visit (Matthew 2:1-12), and God reveals no more.

The purpose of the visit was to worship the one who was "born King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2). Arriving in Jerusalem, they sought help in finding the new King. Herod heard they were looking for the young sovereign and gathered all the "chief priests and scribes of the

people" and "inquired of them where the Christ was to be born" (Matthew 2:4). They knew from Micah 5:2 that the Ruler would come out of "Bethlehem, in the land of Judah" (Matthew 2:5-6). Herod passed this information to the wise men and instructed them to let him know where the young



Child was so that he too could worship Him (Matthew 2:8).

The wise men told of seeing His star in the east and found this same star now directing them to Bethlehem and where Jesus would be found. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" (Matthew 2:9-10). Upon their arrival, they "opened their treasures" and presented "gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11). Herod did not intend to worship Jesus but to kill him. Being warned by God, the wise men returned to their country another way.

Here are some things we learn from what God tells us. Please note that all we know about the visit

KEEP CHRIST in CHRISTMAS

Facts:

- ✓ The Star was not at the manger.
- ✓ The Wise Men never saw Jesus in the manger.
- ✓ The New Testament disciples never celebrated Christmas!

YOU CANNOT KEEP CHRIST IN SOMETHING HE WAS NEVER IN TO BEGIN WITH! THE BIBLE NEVER MENTIONS CHRISTMAS.
(KENT E. HEATON)

from the wise men is what God tells us - neither man nor the Roman Catholic Church can change these facts without changing the word of God (see Galatians 1:8-9). The Bible does not reveal the number of wise men, we are not told their names or nationalities. We do know they came from the east and traveled a great distance. They were looking for the one who had been born King of the Jews. They wanted to worship Him. They saw his "star in the east" and came to Israel to look for him. This same star helped them find Bethlehem and then the star "stood over where the young Child was" (Matthew 2:9).

The star the wise men saw did not shine upon a baby in a manger. Matthew records in very plain language the wise men were looking for a young child and they found the young Child Jesus in a HOUSE (Matthew 2:11). The Greek word used in this text indicates an "abode" or "residence." A manger is neither an abode nor a residence and while the shepherds found a baby in a manger (Luke 2), the wise men did not see Jesus in a manger. What they saw was a young child,

near the age of two years old. The star they saw in the east was when Jesus was born and it would take some time to travel to Israel. When Herod heard the wise men had deceived him, he sent his army into Bethlehem and put to death all the male children, "from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men" (Matthew 2:16). Jesus was not a baby when the wise men came but a young child.

The lesson in this story is that God tells it how it happened and man creates a fairy tale. Do you follow a fairy tale, a myth, and a false version of the truth? If it does not matter how the wise men's story is told, what else in God's word can be corrupted? "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). It makes a difference what we believe.

The Name "Christmas" (Grover Stevens)

The name "Christmas" was given to us by the apostate Roman Catholic Church, which had long since departed from the true doctrine of Christ and the New Testament order of things (See 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 2:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 John 2:19, etc.) I do not mean to cast reflection upon Catholic people – they are good

people – but they are wrong in their doctrine and practice. They do NOT follow the Bible – the teachings of CHRIST. If I did not believe that they were wrong, I would be one of them. They are good people but they have been misled and they are wrong religiously.

The word “Christmas” is “Christ” plus “Mass”, or the Mass of Christ. According to the Catholic Catechism, Mass is the “unbloody sacrifice of Jesus Christ.” The word “mass” refers to the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation – the doctrine that the bread and grape juice in the Lord’s Supper are miraculously changed into the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. Just how the “Mass of Christ”, which refers to His crucifixion, got connected with His birth is something that I have not yet learned. Neither one was observed by the apostles of Christ nor the 1st century Christians.

The Christmas Story And The Wise Men (Kent Heaton)

Twas the week before Christmas
and all through the land,
Not a Bible was open
in anyone’s hand.
The story of Jesus is told
again and again,
But the truth of His birth is
confused among men.

They tell of his birth in a place
called a stable,
His mother and father
were not even able
To find a room at a place
for him at an inn.
So they settled for a manger to
place the Lord in.

With shepherds around him and
wise men there
The story of Jesus is told
with small care.
A star is above the stable so high
As the scene of His birth
is told in a lie.

We read of a story much
changed from this
From the words of men
who tell it amiss.
They celebrate Christmas
as if Christ is there
But never see what
the scriptures lay bare.

The Lord was laid in
a manger so soft
And the shepherds saw angels
singing praises aloft
They came and found Mary and
the child in that place
And gave praises to God for His
wonderful grace.

But the wise men were not there
nor ever would be.
They saw the star in the East and
made haste to see.
The one who was born
King of the Jews

The one who would bring such
wonderful news.

They found the young child
secure in a home.

With Mary His mother
and Joseph alone.

There were no shepherds
as told by men.

There was no manger
nor ever had been.

They gave Him their gifts
and they parted away,

Warned by God to go
home another way.

Herod came and killed
all the males

In his anger and wrath
he made Rachel wail.

The story is told in the Bible for all

To heed the true words
and the gospel call.

It matters much what
the story will say,

We must obey all of He
who is the Way.

The apostle John wrote
down in his book

That every man must
take time to look

At what he may add to
the words of this story

Or what he may take
from the divine glory.

The story of His birth
is one story alone

And man must not change one
word or one tone.

God's word is true and
will always stand

Through the passing of time and
the shifting of sand.

Speak truth my friend
and you will find

No other story and no other kind.

So wonderful and glorious
as this story told

As the story of Jesus
from the pages of old.

**TRUTH NEVER SUFFERS FROM
INVESTIGATION**

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ *Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida*

☞ *Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri*

☞ *The saints in Nicaragua*

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