

The Gentile Christmas

January 6, 2019 – Matthew 2:1-2; 9-12

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is The One Who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” After they had heard the king they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

Do you feel left out – alone?

You are part of a bigger picture – God’s plan of Salvation - Salvation History. God’s Plan for your Salvation began immediately after the fall into sin by Adam and Eve.

It all began with the 1st promise of the Savior in the Garden of Eden. (**Gen. 3:15**)

The Salvation History of God for your benefit continued. God’s Salvation History included an O. T. Prophecy by a soothsayer named Balaam. This prophesy of God through Balaam is recorded in **Numbers 24:17 – A Star from Jacob. A Scepter out of Israel.**

It was a star that led the Magi from the East to go to Bethlehem to Worship Christ the King and Savior of the World.

These Magi were Gentiles. If you are not a Jew, then you are a Gentile.

The message of Salvation in Christ Jesus made it clear across the Ocean, to the other side of our planet to you.

On December 31 – New Year’s Eve Day, it was reported that there were people getting their spot in the New York Times Square at 9:00 a.m. in the morning so that they could be close to watch the Ball Drop at Midnight on New Year’s Eve.

In Australia members would drive from 2-3 hours for a worship service, and worship would be a whole day event.

In Zambia, people would walk for hours to worship the Lord, some of them making their way to the road hoping that I would find them on the way and give them a ride.

This Morning we hear about the Magi from the East – Wise men, Astrologers, went to the house where Mary and Joseph were staying. In Bethlehem. Beth – LeHem – House of Bread.

These Wise Men had prepared in advance and brought these TREASURES!

GOLD fit for a KING

Frankincense – Incense burning causes the smoke to rise as our prayers to heaven

Myrrh – Used for burial and when mixed with wine as a pain killer.

And they Worshiped Him.

And these Magi go in and worship a Baby, born to someone as ordinary as Mary (and step father Joseph your ordinary carpenter).

And there is no discomfort or awkward actions by these Magi.

When Sunday Morning comes around, how do we approach our public worship of our Lord Jesus?

As Americans we spend a great deal of time working to make ends meet.

It has occurred more than once that when I ask members why they do not worship more regularly, I get the answer that they are too busy with work to pay the bills.

Do we go to great plans, in advance?

Do we look at our calendar and say, that is Sunday, That is the Day I worship Jesus My Savior. I need to set this time - Day - aside.

Or do we say, if I have time, I will go, if I wake up.

When we bring our offerings, do we bring our treasures? Have we planned in advance what we will give to Jesus, or is it the leftovers.

Before the Lord Jesus came into the world as flesh and blood, it was prophesied 4,000 years earlier that He would come just as God promised when God made that first promise in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:15)

The Prophets of the Old Testament foretold the Jesus would come. That He would be stricken and smitten for us. (Isa. 53)

That He would be Immanuel – God with us. That He would be born in Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah from a Virgin.

God planned well in advance the coming of Your Savior.

God Humbled Himself for us.

And God is preparing a place for you in heaven and preparing for the Last Day, When He will take me and you and all believers to heaven.

Let us worship Him, - Christ Jesus - Our King, Our Savior. - AMEN