

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Where did the wise men come from? Were they followers of God?
2. Why did they recognize Jesus as King of the Jews? Did they worship Him as Savior?
3. What does it mean to worship God?
4. How should we diligently search for Jesus today?
5. What lesson of obedience can we learn from Joseph?
6. What lesson do we learn in God's divine protection of Jesus?

SUMMARY:

Wise men came from a far distant eastern country to look for Jesus, being students of the Jewish scriptures and having believed the prophecies of His coming, even studying out the time of His coming. They followed the Star with only one error—going to Jerusalem (the capital city) instead of following direct to Bethlehem.

Having found Him in Bethlehem, they worshipped Him and then returned home. God's protection then is revealed as Joseph and Mary, with Jesus, flee from the dangers of his mortal enemies. God also will watch over us as His children.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 23, 2007

Fourth Quarter

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 2:1-23*

LESSON SETTING: Jerusalem

TIME: The birth of Christ.

I. THE KING SOUGHT. Matthew 2:1-8

- A. Wise Men (vs. 1) Proverbs 9:10; 2 Timothy 3:15
- B. Believe the Scriptures (vs. 2) Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 60:3
- C. Seek Jesus (vs. 2) Mark 1:37; Luke 19:3; John 12:21

II. THE KING FOUND. Matthew 2:9-11

- A. Divine Presence on the Way (vs. 9) Genesis 28:15; Exodus 33:14
- B. Great Joy at Jesus' Presence (vs. 10) Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 16:11
- C. Jesus Worshipped (vs. 11) Matthew 14:33; Luke 24:52; Revelation 5:8

III. THE KING PROTECTED. Matthew 2:12-23

- A. Divine Protection (vs. 12) Exodus 33:22; Psalm 121:4; John 17:11
- B. Protecting Angels (vs. 13) Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; Acts 12:7; Hebrews 1:14
- C. Overshadowing of God (vs. 19-23) Psalm 57:1; Isaiah 25:4; 51:16

GOLDEN TEXT: *WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE HOUSE, THEY SAW THE YOUNG CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER, AND FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM.*
Matthew 2:11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 12:22-32

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Mark 3:20-30; Acts 13:14-43

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: SINNING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus had just performed another miracle. So often these things were done on the Sabbath and the charge was always made that He was a "Sabbath breaker." This apparently was not the Sabbath, so another charge was made, this time that He was performing these by the power of Satan. He taught them the lesson that a house divided against itself cannot stand. He also taught that the devils were cast out by the power of God and because of these manifestations they had evidence of the coming of God's kingdom into their midst.

He told them also that there is no middle ground. They can only be walking in two paths, either for Him or against Him. We today are in the same position. Whose side are we on?

The gravest warning given in scripture also was given on this occasion. The sin against the Holy Spirit is unpardonable. This can be done in several ways, vexing the spirit (Isaiah 63:10), reference to Jesus as being unclean (Mark 3:30), lying to the Spirit (Acts 5:3), grieving the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and having partaken of the Holy Spirit and falling away (Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31).

CENTRAL TRUTH: The indwelling Spirit is the power by which believers are enabled to witness. He must be honored and revered.

GOLDEN TEXT: FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN. Ecclesiastes 12:13

These are the concluding words of Solomon as he reviewed his life and saw the calling that he had of God as ruler of the Israelite people, but how he also had failed. He had turned from a way of humility and obedience to God to one of self-will, doing many things that had been forbidden. He now recognized the achievements of man as being vanity. He recognized that man's whole duty is to obey God and serve Him. He had learned that to bring his own will into being not only brings God's displeasure but also His judgments. The final recorded words of Solomon were these, "*God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*" Let us ever seek to keep God's commands, remembering that if we disobey Him we can expect His judgment. "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" (Hebrews 10:31)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 24 - 30

- M. Sin of Shelomith's Son. Leviticus 24:10-16
- T. Sin of Israel. Numbers 21:1-9
- W. *Sinning Against the Holy Spirit. Matthew 12:22-32
- T. Christ Accused of Blasphemy. Mark 14:55-65
- F. Peter Laments and Repents. Mark 14:66-72
- S. Paul's Sins Forgiven. 1 Timothy 1:5-14
- S. Willful Sin Against the Spirit. Hebrews 10:26-31