

# Characters of Christmas

## Part 5: The Magi Mt. 2:1-12

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>*

We've been reflecting on a few of the chief "Characters" that make up the Christmas Story. There is much we can learn from many involved in this familiar story, but I've narrowed our focus to just a few. Each of the characters we're considering reflect specific responses to the incarnation that reflect our own responsibilities. So far we've discussed:

- John in his role of Preparation. *"Prepare ye the way of the Lord"*. Mal. 3:1; Mt. 3:3
- The Angels and their roles of Proclamation, Protection and Praise.
- The Shepherds and their roles in Invitation.
- Mary and Joseph and their roles of Dedication

This Morning I'd like to discuss the roles of the Wise Men and their voice of Adoration. Much of what we believe about almost anything is based on a mixture of Misinformation; Imaginations; Assumptions and Traditions. For instance many "assume" there were 3 Kings probably based Rev. John Hopkins 1857 Carol "We three kings." Many also believe these "Kings" arrived at the manger scene based on Christmas Movies, nativities and cards.

**That's why it's important to base our faith on the facts God reveals in His word.**

**The Facts:** Mt. 2 describes them as "wise men from the East". "Wise Men" (Mag'os) simply means "oriental scientists." If comes from rab-mawg' meaning Babylonian official.

This comes from the Greek word Rab, meaning "abundant in rank and quality."

## Let's Consider:

### 1. The Light they received!

Light "received" brings more light! Light "ignored" brings *darkness!*

#### A. Some Possible "sources" of their "light."

- 1) Ancient Babylonian records.
- 2) Ancient "prophecies". (Balaam) Nu. 24:17,19 *"there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel... out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion."*
- 3) The supernatural "star". *Ps. 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God... his handiwork"*
  - a) They noticed because they were seeking!
- 4) Eventually they received Direct Revelation From God! *Mt. 2:12 "being warned of God"*

They certainly had less "light" than the priests in Jerusalem who "knew" about the birthplace of Messiah, (Mt. 2:5) but they chose to act on the light they had...

So God was able to guide them to the Christ.

*What are we doing with the Light we've received?*

**The Light led them to make certain Choices!**

### 2. The choices they made.

Life Is Full Of Decisions, each which may alter our journey and even our destination.

#### A. Follow The Light. (Wherever it led!)

- 1) They recognized the light they received was God's personal Invitation to them!

#### B. Find The Christ.

- 1) In spite of delays and deceit!

- a) Though they got “sidetracked” in Jerusalem, they kept going until God gave more light!  
Mt 2:9,10 *“When they had heard the king, 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”*

**C. Focus on the Christ. (Worship) Mt 2:11** *“when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”*

Their gifts were:

- 1) **Practical.** God knew Mary and Joseph would need them in Egypt!
- 2) **Prophetic.**
  - a) Gold for Jesus’ Royalty.
  - b) Frankincense for Jesus’ Deity.
  - c) Myrrh for Jesus sacrificial Death.

Following, Finding, and Focusing on Christ was possible because they chose to:

**D. Flex** their lives around God’s plan. Ps 37:4,5 *“Delight (anag: be pliable) thyself in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; Trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”*

- 1) Delighting (Loving) leads to **Committing!** 1 Jn 5:3

**Conclusion: The Wise Men represent the voice of “Adoration”.**

- 1) What do you think they “expected” to find at the end that would make their journey “worth while?”
- 2) How do you think they felt when God guided them to a poor man’s humble home and a young child?
- 3) What did they do IN SPITE of their possible “disappointment”?
  - a) They still Worshipped!
  - b) They still “Gave” their best!

**Application: The “Wise men” found two Kings and had no trouble recognizing the true King:**

- 1) Herod “the great” had all the trappings and appearance of power, but was a ruthless imposter. He was preoccupied with his own plans for power, possessions, and prestige.  
*This drove him to protect and preserve His kingdom at all costs.*
- 2) The other had none of the adornments or signs of Royalty, yet they intuitively knew that he was the King of Kings!  
*This awareness motivated them to put their own personal “Kingdoms” at the disposal of this Christ Child and to pay tribute and homage to Him.*

Many people worship and serve the wrong King, ignorantly pledging their service to the “god of this world”, coveting the temporary pleasure and power he offers to “faithful servants.”  
(1 Jn 2:15-17)

Jesus said that “Wise Men” of every age will Recognize the lie of the “False King” and the Truth of who He is and build their accordingly! (Mt 7:22-27)

- What are you building your life on?  
Wise men and women still seek and serve Him! Mt. 2:1