

Do You See The Star

The Embassy Church - Small Group Notes - Sunday, December 2, 2018

The Wise Men from the East had the skill to see The Star among many others. Where most people just saw stars, they recognized the extraordinary from the ordinary. When they did, it changed their lives...

Blessings,
Pastor Léon van Weerden

Scripture Passages - All Passages from New King James Version Unless Otherwise Noted *Matthew 2:1-11*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ *'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'* "

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Numbers 24:17-19 (New Living Translation)

¹⁷ I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future.
A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.
It will crush the heads of Moab's people, cracking the skulls of the people of Sheth.
¹⁸ Edom will be taken over, and Seir, its enemy, will be conquered,
while Israel marches on in triumph.
¹⁹ A ruler will rise in Jacob who will destroy the survivors of Ir."

Micah 5:2-5 (New Living Translation)

A Ruler from Bethlehem

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.
³ The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land.
⁴ And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world.
⁵ And he will be the source of peace. When the Assyrians invade our land and break through our defenses, we will appoint seven rulers to watch over us, eight princes to lead us.

Genesis 49:8-12 (New Living Translation)

⁸ “Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you.

⁹ Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

¹¹ He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

Matthew 11:27-30

²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Luke 22:29-30

²⁹ And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

John 14:12

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

John 20:21

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Main Points

- 1) The Star – A Sign of His Royalty
- 2) The Scepter – A Symbol of His Authority
- 3) The Scope – A Sense of His Sovereignty

Discussion Questions

Revelation

- How does the star speak of the royalty of Jesus?
- How does the scepter speak of the authority of Jesus?
 - Numbers 24:17-19; Genesis 49:8-12
- How far reaching is the scope of the ministry of Jesus effecting *all things*?

Interpretation

- What is the significance of the star and that Jesus came as a King?
- Jesus brought salvation, but what else did He bring?
 - Isaiah 9:6-7
- What does it mean that the coming of Jesus has *scope* to affect all things?

Application

- Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?
- How do you Jesus?
 - Royalty, Authority, Sovereignty
- Having caught was Jesus brought to the earth, how is He sending you today?
- What assignment is Jesus giving you today?

Quotable Quotes

- Believers are called to be thermostats, not thermometers.
- It's time to grow up.
- Sometimes religion makes the sky so big you don't see the star. Revelation enables us to see the star in the big sky.
- The impact of the birth of Jesus should impact us in our everyday life as well.
- Religion celebrates birth certificates. Revelation releases purpose, destiny and assignment.