

Thoughts on the Sunday School Lesson

by Pastor Artee Williams

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Subject: Faithful Seekers of the King-Matthew 2:1-12

I. Key Background Scriptures

Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 9: 6-7. John 4:24

Revelation 4:8-11

II. Introduction

The record of Matthew regarding the wise men who came from the east to worship Jesus provides another example of the purposes and plans of God .

In this lesson we see the divine design of God for the wise men including His guidance by the star and His provision through a dream.

We also see God's sovereignty as He uses Gentiles instead of Jews to accomplish His will. God can do anything He chooses.

The lesson concludes with a picture of worship, a reminder that worship must include the following: right motive, right giving (generous and sacrificial), and a right relationship with God (love of God). Worship is an act of love , prompted by proper motive and generosity.

This holiday season is a perfect time for believers to renew their commitment to follow the guidance of God and to worship Him.

III. Unusual facts in the scripture text

1. Wise men come from the east to worship Jesus.
2. God used these Gentiles for His glory and honor.
3. The wise men referred to Jesus as King of the Jews when addressing Herod the King.
4. God provided a star to guide the wise men to Jesus.
5. The star re-appeared and brought great joy and assurance to the wise men.
6. Gentile men (wise men) worship a Jewish child.
7. Gentile men offer gifts fit for a king, their gifts were costly and precious.
8. God used a dream to warn the wise men not to return to Herod.

IV. Points to ponder

1. It is apparent that the wise men did not have a personal relationship with God, however, what they knew of Him they believed and followed. How else can it be explained that these Gentile men would follow a star. They were clearly influenced by God.
2. We are not told in scripture how God revealed to the wise men that Jesus had been born, only that God gave them a sign- the star.
3. It is evident from the scriptures that the star was not a normal heavenly body because it stood directly over the house where Jesus and his parents were living.
4. The wise men only worshipped Jesus, not Mary his mother.
5. The wise men only presented gifts to Jesus.

6. Their presenting of gifts to Jesus was a part of their worship, an expression of their worship.
7. The gift of gold was fit for a king because Jesus was the King of the Jews.
8. The gift of frankincense was a symbol of sacrifice. This incense was used by Jews in their sacrificial offerings, it was a symbol of the people's desire to please God. Jesus pleased God and obeyed the Father's will.
9. The gift of Myrrh was a type of perfume used in preparation of bodies for burial. Jesus would give His life for the sins of the world.
10. Gold was for royalty- Jesus was a royal Savior.
11. Frankincense was for His deity.
12. Myrrh was for His humanity, because He became sin for us.
13. The warning of God by a dream is further proof that God was communicating with the wise men.
14. The role of the wise men was according to God's purpose and plan.

V. Compelling challenge

Wise men still seek Jesus.

Wise men still follow Jesus.

Wise men still worship Jesus.

Seeking, following and worshipping Jesus can make a difference in your life.

Are you willing to be the difference that makes a difference?