

Matthew Handout Week Four

Big picture message:

The mess

The man

What can we learn...

-

-He was not

-He was

First lesson in righteousness. What does righteousness *do*?

-He was

Eph. 1: He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Righteousness also means

-He was

-He was

The Meek: God protects the _____ and the _____

v. 20b the *Child* who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call *His name Jesus*....

**2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw 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 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:
6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;
For out of you shall come forth a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”**

Timeline: Date

Place

magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east (in its rising) and have come to worship Him.”

First character study

Magi (latin). From magoi (Greek). Where we get our word-

From the east-

Why does Matthew mention them?

Were they well liked?

Isa. 47:13 Let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you. “Behold, they have become like stubble, fire burns them; they *cannot deliver themselves* from the power of the flame.

Who is the gospel for?

The gospel is breaking through...

How do they come to know what they know? How do they relate the star to the Jews?

Dan. 2:4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: “O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.” The king replied to the Chaldeans, “The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap.

His star v.2: How do they connect the star to a Messiah/king?

Isa. 60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. *Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.* Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Lift up your eyes round about and see they all gather together, they come to you.

Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms.

“Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you. A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

All those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; they will go up with acceptance on My altar, and I shall glorify My glorious house... The sons of those who afflicted you (Babylonians) will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; and they will call you the city of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Dan. 7:14 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

Num. 24:16 The oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered. "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, *A scepter shall rise from Israel*, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth.

What is this "star"? It appears and disappears, It moves from east to west, It moves from north to south, It fails to catch the attention of the general public, It hovers over a single house.

It's not a planetary alignment of Saturn and Jupiter, not a supernova, not a meteor or comet or nebula or a UFO. None of those satisfy the odd description.

The root word means=radiance or brilliance.

What radiance/ brilliance have we encountered in scripture that matches the weird account of this star?

The

Jn. 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men...

Ex. 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

Ezekiel 43:2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.

Ezekiel 10:4 And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

Ezekiel 9:3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house.

Matthew 17:2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun (which is a star), and His clothes became white as light.

Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Isa. 42:6 I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, To open blind eyes,

Col. 1:26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? So I ask again, where does God's glory reside? In us, His temples. For what purpose? To be lights to the world. To bring His presence to the world.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 5:8 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Dan. 12:1 But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

Stuff we learn from the star

-
-

Lk. 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"

-
- Even when you lose sight of God's direction, the star disappears for a while...

Stuff we learn from the wise guys

-

Hos.2:23 I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!'"
Eph. 2:12 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

-
-

-To testify to Matthew's big theme...

-The magi teach us about worship.

Good worship is...

-

-

For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.

-Unhindered by

V. 11 After coming into the *house* they saw the Child with Mary His mother;

-Radically

-

-

V. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

-

Gold

frankincense

myrrh

What is our comparable offering? Gold

Frankincense

myrrh

-Rightly

12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

But what God gives is exceedingly, abundantly more than we deserve or imagine. It is the greatest gift. Lk. 22:19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

Discussion

1. What has been a "star" in your life—in other words, what/who has been a powerful force in leading you to Jesus? What leads you to want to worship?

2. In what way do you like to express your love to God most? In song, words, service, quality time, giving?

In what way do you feel love by God the most? Through His word, His deeds, His presence, His gifts to you, fellowship/kindness of other believers or something else?

Pray for each other.