The Wisdom of *Christmas*

7 The beginning of wisdom is this:
Get wisdom. Though it cost all you
have, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

Wisdom of Christmas

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (NIV)

Wisdom of Christmas

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, [2] “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” [3] King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. [4] He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

Matthew 2:1-4

Wisdom of Christmas

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what
the prophet wrote:
6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you who will be the
shepherd for my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the
wise men, and he learned from them the time when
the star first appeared.

Matthew 2:5-7

Wisdom of Christmas

8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search
carefully for the child. And when you find him, come
back and tell me so that I can go and worship him,
too!” 9 After this interview the wise men went their
way. And the star they had seen in the east guided
them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and
stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When
they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

Matthew 2:8-10

[11] They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

[12] When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Matthew 2:11-12

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Matthew 2:11-12


WISDOM
Honors

7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.
8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” 9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

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Matthew 2:7-10, 11-12

When we choose to honor God above all and respect human authority in the right way, God works through even imperfect leaders and gives guidance to those who obey Him.

Wisdom of Christmas

Definition of Honor

Honor is choosing to show respect for God-given authority while remaining faithful to God above all else.

Wisdom of Christmas

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes
from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by
God. [2] So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what
God has instituted, and they will be punished. [3] For the authorities do not
strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong.
Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and
they will honor you. [4] The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good.
But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the
power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of
punishing those who do what is wrong. [5] So you must submit to them, not
only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.
[6] Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need
to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. [7] Give to everyone what
you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect
them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Wisdom of *Christmas*

Romans 13:1–7 (NLT)

13 For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether
the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed.
For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and
to honor those who do right.
15 It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those
ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16
For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your
freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love
the family of believers. **Fear God, and respect the king.**

1 Peter 2:13–17 (NLT)

Wisdom of Christmas

God Uses Authorities for His Glory and Our Good

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he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.
8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the
child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can
go and worship him, too!”

Matthew 2:7-8 (NLT)

Wisdom of *Christmas*

When Authority Conflicts with God's Will, Wisdom Honors God as the Ultimate Authority

Matthew 2:8,12

8 Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

12 When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Wisdom of *Christmas*

Wisdom Honors