

Christmastime 3: Restoration

December 18-19, 2021

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I. Gifts and Hope

A. The Magi — Astrologers, “spiritual advisors” or “priests”

Matthew 2:1–3 (TPT) **1** Jesus was born in Bethlehem near Jerusalem during the reign of King Herod. After Jesus’ birth a group of spiritual priests from the East came to Jerusalem **2** and inquired of the people, “Where is the child who is born king of the Jewish people? We observed his star rising in the sky and we’ve come to bow before him in worship.”

3 King Herod was shaken to the core when he heard this, and not only he, but all of Jerusalem was disturbed when they heard this news.

What made this audience unique?

 _____

 _____


 _____

B. The Daniel Connection

Daniel 1:19-20 (NIV) **19** The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. **20** In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Daniel 5:11 (NIV) **11** There is a man [Daniel] in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.

Daniel is the biblical example of “wisdom”:

 _____

 _____

C. Making Jesus Lord

Matthew 2:11 (TPT) **11** When they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, they fell to the ground at his feet and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests full of gifts and presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

II. The Power of Jesus

Luke 23:32-34 (NIV) **32** Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. **33** When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. **34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

III. Could I Do That?

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) **21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” **22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Mark 11:25 (NIV) **11** “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

 Forgiveness is not _____ but it _____ God for the freedom

<https://www.yournextstepnow.com/blog/12stepsofforgiveness>

Prayer: Lord, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____ (name the specifics). I take authority over the Enemy and, in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of His Holy Spirit, I take back the ground I have allowed Satan to gain in my life because of my attitude toward _____ (the person) and give this ground back to my Lord, Jesus Christ.

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This Week’s Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

☐ **Sat** Rest ☐ **Sun** 1 John 3-5 ☐ **Mon** 2 John 1; 3 John 1; Jude 1

☐ **Tue** Rev 1-3 ☐ **Wed** Rev 4-5 ☐ **Thur** Rev 6-8 ☐ **Fri** Rev 9-11 ☐ **Sat** Rest

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