

SERMON SLIDES

SLIDE 01

Matthew 2:1-12 (scripture in ESV)

SLIDE 02

“Being racially Arab, religiously Jewish, culturally Greek, and politically Roman, Herod was a complex man.”

~ Kenneth E. Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*

SLIDE 03

“Two nations are in your womb,

and two peoples from within you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,

the older shall serve the younger.”

Genesis 25:23

SLIDE 04

So in the morning (Pharaoh’s) spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the *magicians* of Egypt and all its *wise men*. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret (*dream interpreters*) them to Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:8

SLIDE 05

Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the *sorcerers*, and they, the *magicians* of Egypt, also did the same by their *secret arts*.

Exodus 7:13

SLIDE 06

Daniel 1 (excerpts)

“to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and *skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace*, and to teach them *the literature and language* of the Chaldeans.”

“They were to be *educated for three years,*”

“*in every matter of wisdom and understanding* about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the *magicians and enchanters* that were in all his kingdom.”

SLIDE 07

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4a

SLIDE 08

"To me, the controversy in West Virginia was a symbolic last gasp of an archaic belief system hurtling toward oblivion. As more and more young people are taught the ironclad evidence for evolution, as they understand the impossibility of miracles, as they see how science is on the part ultimately explaining everything in the universe, then believe in an invisible God, in angels and demons, and a long end ago rabbi who walked on water and multiplied fish and bread and returned from the dead, will fade into a fringe superstition can find only to dreary backwoods hamlets like Campbells Creek, West Virginia.

As far as I was concerned, that day couldn't come soon enough."

~ Lee Strobel, *A Case For A Creator*

SLIDE 09

A multitude of **camels** shall cover you,

the young camels of **Midian** and **Ephah**;

all those from **Sheba** shall come.

They shall bring *gold* and *frankincense*,

and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

All the **flocks** of Kedar shall be gathered to you;

the **rams** of Nebaioth shall minister to you;

they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,

and I will beautify my beautiful house.

Isaiah 60:6-7

SLIDE 10

“In the 1920s a British scholar, E.F.F. Bishop, visited a Bedouin tribe in Jordan. This Muslim tribe bore the Arabic name *al-Kokabani*. The word *kokab* means “planet” and *al-Kaokabani* means “Those who study/follow the planets.” Bishop asked the elders of the tribe why they called themselves by such a name. They replied that it was because their ancestors followed the planets and traveled west to Palestine to show honor to the great prophet Jesus when he was born. This supports Justin’s [Justin Martyr – ca. 165 A.D.] second-century claim that the wise men were Arabs from Arabia,”

Kenneth E. Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*

SLIDE 11

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

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COMMUNITY GROUP RESOURCES

1. Read **Matthew 2:1-12 together**. What questions do you have about the passage? What traditional understanding might you have about the Wise Men and Herod that don't actually appear in the text?
2. Herod was a complex man. Though history recognizes him for his great creations and brutal murders, can you relate to some of his motives, worries and fears? How?
3. The Wise Men were mysterious, but also in search for truth. Have you ever been surprised by God when you were completely focused on something else? How?
4. "When is a gift not a gift?" Or, when is the Good News not good? Have you ever been turned off by God's gifts? What did your "glory war" look like? How did it end?
5. Close in prayer together.