

My Christmas List

More Worship, Less Worry

Craig Smith • December 24, 2018

The annual Christmas battle: worry or worship?

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. **(Matt. 2:1)**

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

(Dan. 2:48)

The story of the Magi: a journey of worship in response to God's revelation...

- **The response to God's creation** – "...and (they) asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.'" **(Matt. 2:2)**

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

(Psalm 19:1-4a)

- **The response to God's Word** – "When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."' " **(Matt. 2:3-6)**
- **The response to God's Son** – "After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary..." **(Matt. 2:9-11a)**

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him...
(Col. 1:19)

Worship in the heart drives an offering out of gratitude...

...and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. **(Matt. 2:11b-12)**