

December 1, 2019  
THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS - Part 1  
**“The Wonder of a Star”**

**With all we can discern from God’s creation around us, the one thing we can never know about God is how much He loves us – it’s why we need Christmas.**

**Psalms 8:4 (NLT):** “what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?”

**The wonder of what Christmas tells us is that God loves us and has come to make His home with us.**

**John 1:14 (The Message):** “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood....”

**Once we believe in Christmas, the world becomes a place of wonder, where God wants to show us the beauty and goodness of all He has made, *if we have eyes to see.***

**Matthew 2:1 (ESV):** “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem”

**The wise men had knowledge, wealth, power and even religion, but something was missing that led them to travel hundreds of miles.**

**The wise men were wise because they recognized that what they needed was not *more* of what they already had but something they *didn’t* already have.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV):** “... [God] has put eternity into man’s heart....”

**As beautiful and wonderful as this world is, it wasn’t created to satisfy our deepest longings – only God can do that.**

**Augustine:** “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

**The wise men were wise because they recognized the sign God placed before them.**

**Matthew 2:2 (ESV):** “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**What’s amazing is not that the wise men saw the star, because it was visible to everyone, but that they recognized it as a sign from God.**

**Jesus:** “For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 ESV, *emphasis added*)

**The wise men not only had eyes to see the star as a sign, they had the courage to follow the sign until they found Jesus.**

**Matthew 2:3-5** (ESV): “<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea...’”

**Isaiah 9:6** (ESV): “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

**Too often we allow everyday busyness to keep us from seeking the eternal.**

**Maybe there was an even deeper and more real reason why the people stayed behind - maybe they were afraid.**

**God loves us too much to leave us in these places that ultimately hurt us, that are destructive to ourselves.**

**Too often we see the signs for what they are, but we don’t follow them, we don’t follow Jesus, out of fear of what he would require of me.**

**They are questions in our lives that require courage to say, “If all I have is Jesus in my life, he is still enough and more!”**

**The wise men had eyes to see, courage to follow, but most of all they had humility to worship.**

**Matthew 2:9-11** (ESV): “<sup>9</sup>...the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him....”

**We don’t worship God primarily for what He has done for us but for who He is.**

**John 1:11-12** (ESV): “<sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

**Those who do come to Jesus, who do have the courage to follow him as his disciples, become children of God.**

**Like the wondrous star that guided the wise men to Jesus, God has placed signs along our path, too, to guide us and lead us to Himself.**

**Next Week - The Wonder of a Name**

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at [gateway-community.org/Find-it](http://gateway-community.org/Find-it)

Follow Randy on Twitter @HagemanRandy