

The Perspective of the Star

Recap the Last 2 weeks:

Week 1- Pastor Jay preached a great message about the Perspective of Joseph.

Week 2- Pastor Bonnie led us on a journey through the thoughts of Mary leading up to the Birth of Jesus.

This morning as we continue to look at the Birth of Jesus through the different lenses of those who witnessed the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, I am going to attempt to communicate from the perspective of the Star of Bethlehem.

Several people asked me if I was going to follow Pastor Bonnie's amazing message and dress up like a star, so I am going to do my best to attempt to dress up like a star this morning.

(Pull out Patrick Sunglasses from SpongeBob.)

I honestly looked for a star costume, but they didn't make them in my size, imagine that...

All joking aside this morning, I think the perspective of the star is just as important today as it was during the Birth of Jesus.

You see, if you analyze the times of Joseph & Mary, and look at the stress the occupying forces of the Romans, the evilness and hypocrisy of the religious leaders, you will find that the times of Christ's birth can relate a lot to today.

In fact, it's not too out there to imagine that the same star that shined over a world in need of Hope the night Christ was born is the same star that shines over a world that is still in desperate need of Hope today.

In the book of Matthew 2: 1-11 we look at the writings of Mark and see in the text the inclusion of today's perspective as it relates to the story of Jesus. (Read along with me)

¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage

to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."³⁻⁴ When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well.

Pause-I want to stop for a moment and make a discovery here in scripture.

You'll notice that the band of scholars, wise men, other translations call them Magi, witnessed the star and reported their findings by asking about the Birth of the Newborn King, yet Herod never saw it.

But Why?

Understand this today, that sometimes our life will get so engulfed in the time, so consumed with the details that we miss what God is trying to show us to get our attention.

Sometimes we choose not to see it because we are so focused on US. Our Needs, Our Desires, Our Dreams, Our Future...It's hard to see because we just don't want to see, because seeing means we have to give something up.

It's interesting as I was doing research into the star's relationship with Herod and Jesus and this time that it led me to a passage of scripture in Revelation.

Listen to this...Revelation 12:1-6

¹⁻² A great Sign appeared in Heaven: a Woman dressed all in sunlight, standing on the moon, and crowned with Twelve Stars. She was giving birth to a Child and cried out in the pain of childbirth.³⁻⁴ And then another Sign alongside the first: a huge and fiery Dragon! It had seven heads and ten horns, a crown on each of the seven heads. With one flick of its tail, it knocked a third of the Stars from the sky and dumped them on earth. The Dragon crouched before the Woman in childbirth, poised to eat up the Child when it came.⁵⁻⁶ The Woman gave birth to a Son who will shepherd all nations with an iron rod. Her Son was seized and placed safely before God on his Throne."

As you read this scripture written by John while he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos some theologians believe that it had a double metaphorical meaning, let me explain.

Upon first looking at the scriptures you can obviously make out who the woman is, Mary, but the dragon, who is the dragon? The Devil?

Yes, metaphorically speaking the serpent is the devil but it also is a reference to the birth story of Jesus. The Dragon being Herod and his attempt to “find” Jesus under the false pretense of worshipping him. Let’s go back to Mark...

“Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”⁵⁻
⁶They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”⁷⁻⁸ Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

Herod, aligning himself with the enemy wanted to silence this Birth, why? Because Herod looked at the Birth of Jesus as a challenger to his power.

All he could see what the new “King of the Jews” replacing him politically and so he lied about going to worship Jesus, and instead tried to have him killed.

Matthew then goes on to say,

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. ***Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!***

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.”

Hope enters the scene in the form of child, and His name is Jesus!

But what about the Star, as you know here in the next few days scientists estimate we may see another Bethlehem star in the skies similar to the phenomenon shortly after Jesus birth.

But what did happen for the star to be there on that particular night that would lead the scholars to the most important discovery in human history, Jesus?

For all of you scholars out there that have studied stars, planets, and the solar systems here is what stood out to me in my research for today:

In the 1600’s a scientist by the name of Johannes Keppler discovered a mathematical equation to pinpoint star patterns and locations.

What does that mean to us today? That based on this formula and new technology that one could actually find where the star appeared that night in Bethlehem the time leading up and after Jesus birth.

It’s important to note that God doesn’t do anything by mistake or accident, amen?

If you were to look at star constellations you will find that Leo is the star constellation that resembles a lion.

Anyone want to take a guess what Tribe Jesus was from? That’s right the tribe of Judah...

Let’s look in Genesis 49:8-11

“You, Judah, your brothers will praise you: Your fingers on your enemies’ throat, while your brothers honor you. You’re a lion’s cub, Judah, home fresh from the kill, my son. Look at him, crouched like a lion, king of beasts; who dares mess with him? The scepter shall not leave Judah; he’ll keep a firm grip on the command staff, Until the ultimate ruler comes, and the nations obey him.”

Who do you think the ultimate Ruler is? That’s Right! Jesus...

So, the star constellation of Leo, we find Regulus. Now, Astronomers and Theologians believe that during this time that Jupiter moves in a crowning fashion around Regulus!

There are so many awesome “coincidences” found through the science of these moments it’s hard to conclude that they are coincidental.

God confounds the wise amen...Just when you think you have it all figured out BOOM, he lays another level of awesome on you that makes you go hmmm...right?

After all the research into the names of the stars and, the planets, and their movements during these events scientists believe that Jupiter and Venus come so close together and through a process called retrograde motion, they appear to freeze in the air over Bethlehem and to the naked eye it would look like a Giant Star.

The Star of Bethlehem.

Once again, NOTHING happens by accident...Here is what I believe that when the galaxies, the planets, and the stars were formed, like you and me they were formed with a purpose.

They weren’t just thrown into the sky by gases colliding or happenstance. I believe there was intelligent design that was at work and as you dive deep you will discover that this alignment of Jupiter, Venus, and Regulus wasn’t an accident either.

It was intended to be what highlighted the very existence & location of Jesus!

The miracle of His Birth!

100’s of Billions of stars Hang exactly where the Lord wants them.

Hope lights the way to Faith...

Faith and Hope carry us through the unknown.

The Circumstances, Trials, and Stressful moments of life are bearable when the Hope of Jesus is brought into every situation.

Hope lights the way to new beginnings.

Jesus birth brought on a reconciliation between God and Man that would change the dynamics of redemption and forgiveness forever!

No longer was a sacrifice at a temple the way to redemption and forgiveness, you have direct access to forgiveness and freedom!

Hope lights the way to strength which paves the way Victory!

Jesus birth brought the defeating blow to Satan and his plans for our life.

His birth, life, death, and resurrection on the cross defeated the schemes of Satan and brought about a concrete path to eternity in heaven!

Reference Scriptures:

We are more than conquerors through Christ who gives us strength.

Ephesians 6:11-12

There is Hope!

For those of you who are struggling with the loss of a loved one, there is Hope!

For those of you who are struggling in your marriage, there is Hope!

For those of you who are struggling in your finances, there is Hope!

For those of you who are struggling believing this morning and your faith is on the Rocks, there is Hope!

The star that leads the wise men to the location of Jesus

The us lying in the manger that night was a road map to Hope.

When the world sees chaos, fear, and destruction the believer sees Hope & Joy!

Why? Because of the Birth of our redeemer in a manger paved the way to freedom, peace, love,

reconciliation, and above all the Hope of Spending eternity with Him!

When we trust in the Hope there is a way out of our struggles, a way out of addiction, a way out of generational curses, a way out of depression, a way out of the fatigue caused by the fallen world around us, and that Hope is Jesus!

Jesus birth signified the launching point to a Hope that had never been experienced on earth before! His life rewrote history, and His death ushered in a new sacrifice that would atone for the sins of us all.

Hope brought about Joy, and Joy brought about Peace, and Peace brought about Freedom!

Where do you need the star to shine in your life today?

Where do you need a fresh dose of Hope?

Can I be so bold to say that If you are sitting in this room this morning or watching online at home that God is NOT done with you! You have a purpose!

You were created to do more than occupy space in the fallen world and hold on for dear life? You were created to share the HOPE of Jesus!

I'm here today to tell you that Hope isn't a feeling, Hope is a Man, and His name is Jesus!

Here is what I know, this Hope will never leave you nor forsake you.

This Hope will take your imperfections and sins and cast them as far as the East is from the west.

This Hope knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb and this Hope formed and created you in his own image, and this Hope sits at the right hand of his father with compassion in his heart to see you free!

Stars in the Bible...

Job-possibly the oldest book in the Bible.
Gods taking credit for the stars. God tells Job he created the stars.

Isaiah 40-God has a name for all of the stars.