

GLORY FOR ALL GENERATIONS 5 - DIVINE COMMUNICATION

Matt. 2:1 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, **2** saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 "But you, **Bethlehem**, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. **11** And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him.** And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, **being divinely warned in a dream** that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

I. FOLLOWING A STAR

A. WHO WERE THE MAGI?

- 1. THE MAGI** were wise men, likely Persian or Babylonian astrologers/priests. **THEY WATCHED THE STARS AND SAW SOMETHING WORTH FOLLOWING UP.**
- 2. THEY TRAVELED FROM THE EAST (LIKELY BABYLON) 500 -900 MILES** depending on actual destination. Journey took weeks or months by camel.
- 3. WHY DID THEY COME? -** Why would anyone make a journey

that was so long or arduous? **THEY BELIEVED SOMETHING.** IT WAS SO PROFOUNDLY UNUSUAL THAT THEY SIMPLY HAD TO SEE WHERE THE STAR LED.

- **THEY STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES AND PROPHECY**
- **DID THEIR RESPECT FOR JUDAISM COME FROM DANIEL AND ISRAEL'S TIME IN CAPTIVITY?**
- **THEY WERE RICH AND BROUGHT TREASURES**

4. **THEY BROUGHT TREASURE - HONOR, RESPECT, WORSHIP**

THE MAGI'S GIFTS of gold, frankincense, and myrrh held immense value in ancient times, not just monetarily but symbolically, with modern estimates suggesting millions in today's currency when considering the vast quantities likely brought for a king, providing financial means for Jesus' family to flee to Egypt.

- **GOLD** - A standard for wealth, its quantity would have been substantial, perhaps in talents (hundreds of pounds). **KINGSHIP**
- **FRANKINCENSE** - An aromatic resin, rare and expensive, used in Temple worship, worth significantly more than silver by weight in antiquity. **PRIESTHOOD, DIVINITY, AND ROLE IN WORSHIP**
- **MYRRH** - Another resin, used for anointing and burial, also highly valuable and costly. **HIS SACRIFICE, ANOINTING FOR BURIAL**

II. **DIVINE GUIDANCE IS FOR US TOO!**

A. **PAGAN PRIESTS ARE HEARING GOD SO WHY NOT YOU?**

EXAMPLES OF DIVINE GUIDANCE JUST IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY, LET ALONE ALL OF THE BIBLE:

1. **ZECHARIAS** (*Doubting*)
2. **MARY** (*Young and inexperienced*)
3. **JOSEPH** (*Emotionally betrayed*)
4. **SIMEON** (*Really Old*)
5. **ANNA** (*Really, Really Old*)
6. **THE MAGI** (*Not Jewish, worshipped Many Gods*)
7. **EVERYONE HAD A SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER BECAUSE IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU! IT'S ABOUT THE PURPOSE, PLAN AND TIMING OF HEAVEN**

B. LEARN TO FOLLOW SUPERNATURAL LEADERSHIP

ROMANS 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

- 1. THE LEVEL OF SUPERNATURAL DIRECTION, INTERVENTION AND COORDINATION IS UNPRECEDENTED AROUND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**
- 2. DIVINE PURPOSE IS UNSTOPPABLE - GOD WILL SPEAK IN WAYS YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU CAN'T DE-RAIL GOD'S PLAN**
 - **WHEN YOU COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD'S PATH FOR YOU (NOT JUST YOUR OWN GOOD IDEA OR AMBITION) NOTHING WILL STAND IN YOUR WAY.**

ISAIAH 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

- 3. FOLLOWING GOD IS WAY BETTER THAN GPS! - GPS SOMETIMES LET'S YOU DOWN. GPS WILL ALWAYS GIVE YOU AN ALTERNATE ROUTE. YOU NEVER GET STRANDED- "Sorry, you are officially lost! You just can't get there from here"**

Psa. 32:8NLT *The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.*

- 4. THERE ARE TIMES THAT ARE CRITICAL IN DIVINE HISTORY**
 - **BIRTH OF CHRIST**
 - **BIRTHING A NATION**
 - **ORDERING YOUR LIFE** (*Getting Married, Family, Buying a House*)

RIVER RAFTING - CATEGORY 4-5 - BEFORE WE BEGAN THE RUN, WE WERE COACHED THROUGH EVERY SECOND OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN SO WE COULD NOT MESS IT UP AND CAPSIZE.

C. HOW GOD SPEAKS - DEVELOPING OUR HEARING SKILL -

1 Samuel 3:1-11 - *Samuel learned from his mistakes and took instruction. So hearing God can be improved through training, increased desire and experimentation.*

1. **SCRIPTURE**
2. **STILL SMALL VOICE**- *Impressions, Hunches, Whispers*
3. **AUDIBLE VOICE**
4. **PROPHETIC REVELATION** - *Words of Knowledge/ Wisdom/ Discernment*
5. **WORD PICTURES** - *Vision, Spiritual Imagination*
6. **SEEING THE SPIRIT REALM**
7. **DREAMS**
8. **TRANCES**
9. **ANGELIC VISITATIONS**
10. **UNUSUAL SIGNS OR HAPPENINGS**

III. JUST ASK HIM

1. **THREE VOICES - GOD, SELF, DEVIL** - *Joy Dawson*

- **REPENT of sin, BIND the devil, ASK God**

MY ENGAGEMENT STORY - *Hugely difficult for me, because I didn't believe in the goodness of God. "I really want this, so obviously God has something else for me." Pretty sure will work*

- **BAD METHOD** - *open the Bible, close your eyes, flip the pages and point. Open your eyes to see what your Guidance is. Desperate foolishness. No relationship. No waiting. No humility.*
- **GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION** - *If you're stressed, confused, anxious, desperate or already committed to just one course of action. It is immensely harder to hear His voice.*

2. **ASK DIRECT QUESTIONS** - *Give up personal agendas and timing*
3. **ASK YES OR NO QUESTIONS**
4. **BELIEVE WHAT YOU HEAR**

5. **OBEY** - *When you ask God to give you guidance, He doesn't give you His opinion, He gives you His instruction.*
6. **TRUST HIS GOODNESS** - *BE OK WITH OUTCOMES*
7. **YOU CAN MAKE A MISTAKE** - *But mistakes are always on us. Learn, adjust, and try again. When you find yourself in a hole, the solution its not to keep digging. The solution is to climb out and start over.*