



Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him*

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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Walking in the Light

Walking in the Light" of Jesus Christ is not a subject for preaching or Bible study – if you follow commentators on the Bible. As we study about the Magi seeing the star, experiencing a great light and what that meant not only to them, but to us today, we found little information given regarding "light." When considering commentaries, we found little to nothing about the Light, the Great Light, Jesus Christ, as the Magi were seeking Him. They wrote that the star the Magi saw was some comet, or *who knows what*.

Whatever happened to the powerful presence of the Lord, Himself, leading His people? In the Old Testament, we have the Lord God Almighty leading the Children of Israel with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night – but some commentators write of a symbol. However, the Bible states, "**And the Lord went before them . . . in a pillar of fire . . .**" (Ex 13.21; Ps 105.39). By the time we get to the Magi in Matthew, the commentators again explain "their" theology that a comet just "happened" to be timed right for them to use; there is no recognition of God in this light or God in the fire by night. Why do some feel they must be as God, and explain things as natural laws or "just happenstance"?

As we were desiring to set our teeth into some meat of the Word of the Lord, we looked at a resource that we had at one time held in high regard – only to find it childish. In fact, there was no reference given regarding "light." There was a listing of children's stories, as the text we are using today is regarded as a "children's story," as is Daniel and the Lion's Den (Dan 6) – and, the three young men in the fiery furnace (Dan 3). The Bible is taught as a storybook – all too often. How many times have you seen books entitled, *Children's Bible Stories*?

This shows the lack of credence that scholars, those standing on pulpits, and professors give to the Holy Word of God – all too often. "How nice! Now, children, God loves ev-v-everybody, and God wants ev-v-v-erything good for you." Sad, but there is no Gospel in the Word that is spoken today – all too often. Yes, we did not say preached, but spoken by those standing on pulpits and the motivational speakers in the "churches" today.

Let us be clear that the Gospel preached by those who know Jesus Christ as **LORD and Savior** will go forth in power and the authority of Jesus Christ to bring salvation - and holy and righteous living.

it hurts; yet, all too often, we do not allow the joy of the Lord to come forth in our lives in the midst of adversity.

Our prayer: Change me, O God, to be the vessel that You created me to be, to serve You that I may one day live with You forevermore through all eternity – now, yes, **now and** forevermore. I want to love You with all of my heart, and to fear You, and to live for You. Help me, O God, like the Magi, to walk in the Light and to leave a different way than when I came. Amen.

*I want to worship the Lord with all of my heart,
Give Him my all, not just a part.
I want to lift up my hands to the King of kings,
And praise Him in everything.*

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Matthew 2.1-12 is about the Magi following a star; it is about men who are hungry for the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus Christ. These are not men who just awakened one day and said, "Say, friend, did you see that comet last night? What do you say we light out on our camels today and follow it?" They were NOT star chasers.

These were men who spent years studying the heavens; they knew the prophecies in the Word of God, and they knew from Whom that Light in the heavens came. They were not ashamed to follow that Light to find the King of kings, a very young child who had been born in a stable (Mt 2.10-11). They were not too proud to make a very long and arduous journey leading to a young child before Whom they would bow and worship Him.

Why do you think these men are called Magi or wise men? Think about it. It is because they had more wisdom than most of us will ever understand or know. They were not proud; they were humble. They were hungry and wanted to feast upon the One Who would give them life.

And think about it, some call this experience a "children's story" - Huh? Let us read this passage. Open your Bible and read Matthew 2.1-12 before continuing to read the rest of this *Message*.

Do you believe for one moment this is a "children's story"? Can you see the children enjoying a mean king, one full of hatred such as King Herod? Can you experience the children understanding and enjoying such an arduous trip, possibly a two year trip through the desert? Can you experience the children with glee, looking forward to going home a longer way than they came – with greater threats? What is wrong with those whom the world calls scholars? They may be scholars; but I adventure to say many know not the Light which gives life, eternal life.

There IS a difference!

Listen to verse 12 again, Matthew 2:12:

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

These were men who were wise, who had not only eyes to behold His glory, ears to hear His calling upon their lives, not only to "Come, see...," but then to return home another way, also hearts to shâma' (שָׁמָא), to walk in obedience to the voice of the Lord that directed them to return home another way.

They knew the Lord's direction in their lives to journey to where He was calling them to "Come, see...," though it was a long and arduous journey, one full of threats as they went through the desert from the East to where they were being led. They had no reason to doubt that the Lord would continue watching over them as they were now called to leave a different way than they came.

Seeing the King of kings changed their lives. If we could see the King of kings, our lives would be changed; we would change. If we had eyes to behold the King and to walk with Him, never taking our eyes off Him, our lives would be changed.

You talk about conversion, this would bring about a conversion that would change the world. But, more importantly, we each would be changed into His likeness.

Reading the Word of God is not seeing type-set words on a sheet of paper; we are talking about reading, experiencing the presence of the King of kings in your life, and allowing the Word to change you.

If we were really worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and were in His presence, His glory would come down, and we would leave a different way than when we approached Him in worship – for our lives would be changed.

Let us begin with the prayer meeting.

Remember Acts 1.8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Again, open your Bible, and read Acts 2.1-4, 41-47.

Now, what is your response? Sad to say, some will leave saying, "Yeah, well, that's nice, that was 2000 years ago; who cares! I say my prayers and same ole same ole!" That is because so many are not praying; they do not have a personal relationship with the King of kings; they do not know Him (Jn 9.31). No, I mean really know Him. They are **not one with Him**, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Mt 6.33). They are seeking worldly pleasures – are they not?

Let us move on with the hearing of the Holy Word of God in Acts Eight and the power of God that went forth and changed people's lives. This is after Acts Seven where a man persecuted the Church. Now, to Acts Eight. Read Acts 8.5-8.

Know that this was in the midst of persecution, that the Word of the Lord Jesus went forth in power and great authority through the preached Word. Now, to the second part of the hearing of the reading of the Holy Word of God continuing in Acts Eight. Read Acts 8.26-39.

Hear the Word of the Lord. Let the Lord speak to your heart and take with you that which the Lord Jesus gives you. Feast upon Him and His Holy Word.

Read Job 1.1-20. Read Ezekiel, Chapters 1-3 and 33. See what the Lord has for you.

Worship is not *hoop-la*. Worship is to experience the glory of the Lord. When one experiences the glory of the Lord, the power is so great that one will fall under the power of the Holy Spirit.

We want His glory resting upon us, but many do not want to walk the *Via Dolorosa* to reach new heights with Jesus – and, yet, perhaps some do. It is sometimes very hard to go all the way with Him. We want to fall in love more deeply with the King of kings and worship Him, follow Him all the way – but do we really? We cry out, but when walking the *Via Dolorosa*, the road is hard. How