



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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Are You Ready for that Day to Come?

Preparing for the journey with the Wisemen, the Magi, is necessary when desiring with them to meet the King of kings. The Wisemen were chosen by the Lord God to make this journey, to experience the glory of the Lord come down. Sadly, this is seen as a children's story! Can you imagine a child enjoying a two year trip to visit a very young child? Can you imagine a child enjoying a two year journey across the desert full of hidden dangers?

This was not a journey one began without much preparation. However, there is more to preparing for such a journey than ensuring you have the resources needed for a possible two year journey.

If you were to tell your family, friends, business associates, and/or neighbors that you were going to take a long-g-g trip across the desert just to see a toddler, what advice would they give you? What would be their comments? Then tell them that you saw a star that is going to guide you to your destination of which you do not know as yet. What else might they say? What advice would they give you? Would it be a pleasant conversation? Would you be encouraged by their words of advice? Would they be encouraging you to go forth and "enjoy the trip"?

Let us look at some great leaders who have had placed upon their lives a call to go forth into a desert, a wasteland, a barren region, an unknown, uninhabited place, a desolate tract. They have gone under the direction of the Lord God. But know they had those who were not following the Lord God Almighty giving them advice that was contrary to the Lord's direction. We are looking at those whose hearts, whose lives were totally given to the Lord God – come what may.

Moses is one of those of which the writer of the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 11 reminds us – that great cloud of witnesses. These are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who chose to give all for Him, whose chose to hear the call of the Lord and respond with "Here am I, send me."

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *[even]* to Horeb.

with the King of kings, Lord of lords, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave His life a ransom for many.

These are a people who have spent their lives preparing for their walk with the Lord each day. They have spent time in the Living Word, Jesus Christ, abiding in Him (Jn 15), in the written Word, the Holy Bible, in prayer, in submitting to the King of kings and Lord of lords and were ready for that time in their lives. We each one who knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are called to be ready, for

There's a great day coming,
A great day coming,
There's a great day coming by and by;
When the saints and the sinner shall be parted right and left.
Are you ready for that day to come?

Will L. Thompson

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *[was]* not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *[am]* I (Ex 3.1-4).

Moses saw the mountain of God alive and heard the voice of the Lord. Moses received the Lord God Almighty. Later the people turned against him, if you recall. But Moses went on with the Lord; he did not turn back, nor did he submit to the many who came against him. Moses knew he had heard from the Lord, and there was no choice but to go on with the Lord, come what may. Oh, Moses' life was not easy; but, oh, how he loved the Lord and obeyed though very, very hard. The Book of Numbers, Chapter 16, will give you a taste of what he experienced from those who were against him – and felt they could do better than Moses at leading the people towards the promised land.

Joshua saw the glory of the Lord in His going before them as they passed over the Jordan. Joshua heard the voice of the Lord directing him to lead the children of Israel toward the Promise Land. Oh, Joshua knew he had heard the voice of the Lord and trusted in Him, His word. Joshua and Moses received the Lord God Almighty. Read Joshua, Chapter Three – and rejoice in the Lord as you experience what the Lord has done through those who trusted in Him.

Let us look at the Magi, the Wisemen, who also experienced the glory of the Lord come down in their midst. They heard from the Lord and did not question the Lord. They arose as one knowing there was not a choice of "do we go or do we ignore the call to make this arduous journey?" This would be a laborious, grueling, demanding journey, but that was not on their minds; they were not fearful knowing they were called to make the journey to see the King of kings. They were not concerned about the toll it might take on their bodies, as their spirits seemed to soar knowing they were called to make this journey. They saw King Herod, but were not deterred when they realized who he was not. They were not discouraged, they were not dissuaded by even the highest who were working against them.

They continued on the journey, knowing they were being led all the way. Read Matthew 2.1-12.

Then, there was St. Stephen who also saw the glory of the Lord. Read Acts, Chapters Six and Seven; oh, how powerful this experience was. May it touch our lives that we also might be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ, fully surrendered to Him. Some would flinch at this statement. But I invite you to read Acts, Chapters Six and Seven. Stephen was a man full of the Holy Ghost, who preached powerfully the Word of God – as Ezekiel was told, "whether they will forebear or not." As Stephen was being stoned, hear Stephen's heart as his last words were a prayer for those who stoned him.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *[God]*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7.59, 60).

Oh, those whose lives were given out of a great love for the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus is more than I can comprehend; and, yet, there are those who, like in the "Church in the Wilderness," the Primitive Church, the Early Church, and all through through the centuries have given their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ out of their love for Him Who died for us for our sins.

We believe that the prophet Isaiah, whose life came through the Book of Isaiah giving forth the Word, experienced the glory of the Lord come down in his life and that he heard the angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory." It was when he experienced the glory of the Lord come down that he saw his sinfulness and cried out, "Woe is me for I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *[which]* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid *[it]* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged (Isa 6.1-8).

It was as he confessed his sinfulness that he heard the voice of the Lord calling him.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *[am]* I; send me.

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not (Isa 6.8, 9 – read all of Isaiah Six).

And, now comes that which is a strong calling to be ready for the Lord in His coming, to prepare to walk in obedience to the Lord in the times that are so unfathomable. History tells us that Isaiah was sawn asunder by the most vile king. The Book of Hebrews alludes to this.

And others had trial of *[cruel]* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *[in]* mountains, and *[in]* dens and caves of the earth (Heb 11.36-38).

Oh, the Wisemen prepared, as have all of the saints through the centuries, for those times that have come and been so encouraging for them, such as Bishop Polycarp and St. Ignatius of Antioch. They were encouraged because they were living for the Lord; they knew the cost, as they realized the cost for their souls to one day be