



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For *the preaching of the cross* is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved *it is the power of God*" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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They Prepared for the Journey

Prep^{are}! The word *prepare* is found throughout the Bible. Amos 4.12 is significant as we look at the Wisemen – as well as a word to each of us.

Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: [*and*] because I will do this unto thee,
prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

"Prepare to meet thy God," in the Hebrew language, is to be firm, to be fixed, to be established, firmly established, to be ready or make ready, to be secure and enduring.

"Webster's 1828 Dictionary" aligns with the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament):
"To make all things ready; to put things in suitable order; To make oneself ready as in '**Prepare to meet thy God.**'"

The Wisemen sought to find the Christ child as they saw "His star in the east" and had "come to worship Him." Many have written that the Wisemen saw a comet or some other heavenly activity, and just set off to see where it led them. However, reading Matthew 2.2 makes it clear they were led by the Lord God as they said "we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him." They knew of Whom they were seeking and Who He was and is. They were not ashamed to acknowledge Him in the midst of the enemy and say, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him."

They knew the scriptures; they knew of the coming of the Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords. I believe that they spent years preparing for the coming of the Christ child. Others knew of the prophecy, the forth telling of the coming King found in one of the minor prophets, Micah 5.2.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [*though*] thou be little among the thousands of Judah,
[*yet*] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [*that is*] to be ruler in Israel; whose
goings forth [*have been*] from of old, from everlasting.

Unlike most of us who talk about the return of the Messiah, the time when the Lord shall gather unto Himself His people, but believe it is in the "sweet bye and bye," and rather slough it off, the Wisemen took it seriously. They spent years studying the prophecy, spent time preparing so when the day came for them "to go," they were ready. They anticipated His coming, and believed whole heartedly and watched for the star. They did not have to spend time fretting over what they

God has always had a people, all through history: the Old Testament, the inter-testamentary times, the New Testament (the Primitive Church), the Early Church and all the years following to this very date. Sadly we do not hear of the persecuted Church very much, the Underground Church, but our brothers and sisters suffer at the hand of the enemy, of Satan - even today.

These are a people who, like the Wisemen, continue believing the Lord is returning. They are a people who are preparing for that return as they edify the body of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God the Father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) – and with a strength of "The Love of God" lead people to repentance and to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Are we prepared for what lies before us, as were all those who have gone before us serving the Lord Jesus Christ that have suffered because of their love for the Lord? Are we prepared for what lies before us as were the Wisemen who chose to follow the star to see the Lord Jesus Christ though they may have lost friends and family by choosing the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you prepared for that day to come? Are you prepared to meet thy God?

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

would take with them, did they have what they needed, what will their family say, what are the dangers of the journey – and on it goes.

They were ready to go when the star appeared, and I believe with great anticipation and in quietude they left to follow that star. We do not hear of them ever wishing they had never started on the journey. We do not hear of all that they went through to finally reach their destination, the Christ child. We do not hear of any disappointments, nor do we hear what the "Holy Family" were like or how they lived. The Wisemen had their hearts fixed upon seeing the King of kings.

We believe that Jesus was about two years old at this time. This is interesting as the Wisemen did not, I say did not, hesitate to bow before the King of kings though only a toddler. I believe they knew the presence of the Holy One, the Lord Himself, and were encouraged, strengthened as they knelt before Him.

I believe they were strengthened for the journey and what lay before them when they began their journey to Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem, as they were to encounter King Herod who did not receive their words lightly; he believed the Wisemen. He believed them and sought counsel of the scribes and chief priest as to where Christ should be born. This was not a discussion of – uh – "is there anything to what the – uh – Wisemen are saying?" No, there was the question and then the response: "in Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet."

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet (Mt 2.4, 5),

The Wis men had prepared for this journey; their hearts were focused. Their spirits were determined to make the journey to see the Christ child. This journey was not a whim of – uh – let's go check on this "star thing," and see if there is anything to it. No, they knew that they knew they were given a gift, the star that went before them to guide them to the One Whom they desired to worship. They had prepared and had proper gifts to take to the King of kings. It is said that the journey was at least a two year journey.

Preparation included supplies they would need for such an arduous journey and the animals, the care they would need for a long journey across the desert over the years as they traveled. But most importantly was that their hearts and spirits were prepared for such a journey, for their journey; their arrival in Jerusalem would bring them before King Herod who would be greatly disturbed to hear of He Who was born King of the Jews. Herod, it is believed, had obtained his Kingdom through great crimes and shedding much blood. He could only think of himself, and who he believed he was; he was threatened by the forthcoming information of a King of the Jews to be born in Bethlehem.

The Wisemen sought the Christ child, the King of kings:

With their whole life

With their whole financial resources

Leaving all behind to seek Jesus

Jesus only; Jesus always; Jesus at all costs

Preparation includes studying the Word of God in Christ Jesus, prayer to seek guidance on such a journey, as the enemy is so strong - as they came to realize. The Bible reveals to us how deceitful the enemy is; however, we seem to take it lightly today believing all is true – regardless from where the information is disseminated.

Then Herod "when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, 'Go and search diligently for the young child, and when ye have found *[him]*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also'" (Mt 2.7, 8).

Oh, King Herod had no interest in worshiping the Christ child. He was cunning in what he said to the Wisemen. But know the Lord God Almighty cannot be deceived, and God's people, if they are living closed to the Lord, will also know when deception is present.

The Wis men had indeed prepared for this journey for when they would see the Christ child. They were ready to depart, ready to return to their home, they were "warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way" (Mt 2.12).

We believe their going another way was most probably a longer, a more difficult journey – and that the Lord went before them in all things. I believe this return journey to their homeland was one of deep worship, thankfulness for experiencing the presence of the King of kings. I believe these Wisemen, who went humbly to seek the Lord God, who went listening to the voice of God and *hearing* His voice, were touched profoundly

But the journey is not over. Disobeying King Herod put them in harm's way, but for the grace of the Lord God Almighty. The Bible tells us of the cruelty of King Herod. Oh, how sad that a man would slaughter innocent lives, take the lives of babies out of fear, fear of a very young, *seemingly* helpless child.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning,

Rachel weeping *[for]* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not (Mt 2.16-18).

We have another slaughter of the innocents, do we not? Exodus, Chapters One and Two, reveals the cruelty of a king of Egypt, who slaughtered all the baby boys.

God has always had a people, a people who have been willing to give of themselves that the work of the Lord shall continue, willing to trust the Lord God with their lives and in all things.