

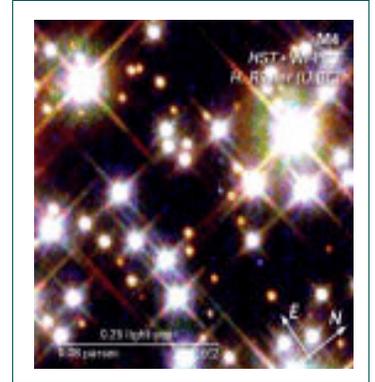
The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

When people look at the stars they probably think of many different things.

What do you think of?

Many people allow the stars to control their lives. How?



Prayer

Dear Lord,

The stars are a very beautiful part of Your creation. You placed a special star in the sky to guide the wise men. As we learn about the effects of that star, help us to be filled with awe at the working of Your plan for the salvation of the world. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 2:1-23

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.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

{14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

{16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent

forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

{17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: {18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

{19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

{21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

{23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Outer Aim - God led the wise men to Jesus.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks to complete these sentences about the story.

1. The wise men went to _____ looking for Jesus.
2. _____ was afraid this new King would take away his kingdom.

3. His scribes found in the _____ the answer of where the King was to be born.
4. Herod told the wise men that he wanted to _____ the child.
5. The star led them to the town of _____.
6. When the wise men had worshiped Jesus they gave Him _____, _____, and _____.
7. God kept Jesus safe by telling the wise men in a _____ to go home by a different way.
8. This angered _____ and he commanded that all male babies should be _____.
9. Jesus was kept safe because God had warned _____ in a _____.
10. After _____ was dead God sent His _____ again to Joseph in a dream.
11. Joseph moved Mary and Jesus to _____.

What God's Word Tells Us - How do these passages parallel today's story?

Isaiah 60:2-3 - For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Micah 5:2 - But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

Inner Aim - God reveals the Savior of all people.

Passages

"Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."
Psalm 37:5

Isaiah 49:6 - Indeed He says, "I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Hymn Study - TLH 127

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercyseat!

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King!

Which verses specifically apply to today's lesson?
How can we learn from the wise men's actions?

Prayer - Write a prayer that focuses on the thoughts of today's lesson.