
**EDITED AND
ABRIDGED
DRAMATIZED
STORY**

**FROM A SERMON
OF
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THE MAGI



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His Wonders to Perform (The Magi)

In this great time before the coming of the Lord Jesus to the earth, there was a little young couple, Joseph and Mary, being engaged. Something had happened in her life and Joseph saw that Mary was to be mother.

Joseph was thinking on these things, when the Angel of the Lord appeared to him. The Angel said, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” So Joseph understood and went right on with the marriage.

In those days if there would've been another king, maybe a good hearted king, this could not have happened. But it had to be that the

murderer, heartless, bloodthirsty Herod had to be on the throne. It just had to happen that way. The prophet had said that there would be a cry in Rama, Rachel crying for her children, and would not be comforted, because they were not. What the prophet said under inspiration had to happen. And without Herod, there would've never been a taxation of all the people in that day. They had to come up to their home towns to be taxed.

Now, Mary was to be mother at any time. It looked like she couldn't make that long trip up into Bethlehem. Remember, she didn't have an ambulance to go in, neither a fine coach. She had to sit on the back of a little donkey, beating along the hard paths, stumbling over the rocks, but it was the king's orders. No exceptions. They had to go.

Then there was another danger. This little company, just a young man and his little newly married wife, were going along the

road. There were many robbers was in the land in those days, like Barabbas and so forth. What a parade that would've been to them to see just a little man walking along with a little woman to be mother, setting on a little donkey, and with a little stick in his hand for a group of wild, mean men to ride down, and throw her off there, and do evil.

But you know, if God is leading the way, what difference does it make? God will protect you to your destination. There are no dangers when you're walking with the Lord.

I would believe easily, that there was a host of ten thousand Angels walking along there with that man and that little donkey. She was just as safe as she could be. But perhaps little did she know these things. And little maybe, did Joseph know, that all this was just about to happen. But we don't have to know everything, we just believe by faith and walk on. God doesn't have to tell us all His plans, or just how He's going to make the morning

star shine in the morning. Just move on anyhow. God takes care of His own.

As I see the little company moving along, it must have been that they were travelling by night because it would be cooler. What if that little mule would've stumbled and had fallen, packing that precious Treasure? Oh, the greatest Treasure the world ever had, and it was sitting on the back of a mule. We look for things with great shining lights around it. God dwells in humility, always.

We see them as they come along through the night, because it would be cool. We imagine that the direct rays of the Palestinian sun, in those days, would've been hard upon the little woman. And as they were traveling by night, let's say it's getting along nine or ten o'clock at night on that great memorial night. The road that they travelled lies west of Bethlehem. Standing on this road, which is just about a mile out of Bethlehem, you come

down sort of a hill like, and you make a turn and then go into Bethlehem.

The same little road's there today. Just as you make this turn, there's a great heap of rocks laying there. Let's just imagine in our story now, as this couple comes by this rock, that Joseph, in his tenderness, says, "Sweetheart, we are looking over the city," and he picks her up in his arms gently and sets her down on the side of the rock. They begin to talk about childhood days, how they used to play in the streets of Bethlehem. I can hear Joseph say, "It was just over here, Mary, that my mother used to talk to me, and brush back my hair, and tell me of the great stories of the Bible."

As they talked, Mary looked up and said, "Joseph, it seems to me that the stars are just a little brighter over Bethlehem tonight." You know, there's something strange about it, that when God is just ready to do something, there seems to be a peculiarity.

As Mary and Joseph looked at those stars, somewhere way far into the east, many hundreds of miles away, something was taking place in that far away land, way across into India. And as I read this text once, and saw those Magis coming to worship the Lord Jesus, I wondered, “What has a Magi got to do with the Lord Jesus? What part would that man, or those people, have to play in the Gospel?”

We see that they were led by a mysterious light that they called a star. A star is only an object of light. It's in no certain shape, just a missile in the air. And as they were led, this thought came to me, “And the children of Israel were led by a mystic light.” In Exodus 13 we read it, that there was a Pillar of Fire that went before them to lead them to the promise that God had given them.

I found out that the Magis in India, were really the Medes-o-Persians that we were speaking of in Belteshazzar's big rock-and-

roll party, when the Medes-o-Persians took over the Babylonian kingdom. They had immigrated and gone up into India. Now, the Indian is called the untouchable, but the Hindu is the Medes-o-Persian. In there they still have these arts of the wise men. Now, I find that these Magis were not the type of fellows today that take the stars and tell fortunes, but they were scientific men who watched the heavenly bodies and knew every little star that was visible to the human eye. Any little move, it meant some spiritual significance.

And we know yet today, that those things are the truth. God, when He made His solar system, He put the moon as a guard with a gun over his shoulder. He set the boundaries of the sea, and that moon if it would ever move from its orbit, this entire earth would be destroyed with water. That moon holds the sea. I've stood by its banks and watched its angry waves trying to lick out. But the

moon says, “Hold your peace. God set your boundaries, and I’m the guard.” When the moon begins to look sideways to worship Jehovah, then the tides start slipping in and when the moon comes back, and it slips back out again, because those bodies have a meaning.

So these Magis in the east - when Billy and I would go out on the streets, they would be setting, squatted down with the turbans on their head, butting their heads together in the daytime waiting for the night to come. One of the ancient historians said, “They were not kings, but they were worthy to be called the servants of kings.”

It was up in the mountains where this great event took place. They had a great temple up there in the mountains in India. Each night, they would have their ceremonies and their feasts, while they slept through the daytime. In the late evenings they would go out on the plaza, from there climb up the steps of an

observatory, get way up in the watchtower, and sit all night watching those bodies. Until it was really dark, when the twilights of evening were still falling, they had a way of getting themselves into the spirit of their astrology, or astronomy, or astrology, I think was the right word. As they looked, they would read the old manuscripts and discuss things, of the failures of their fathers, and the failures of the things. And doing so, then they would worship one true God. They were not idol worshippers. They believed in one true God.

As they set there, they would gaze at the stars, and on this certain night, while they were gazing, they brought out the old manuscripts and they began to talk about certain kingdoms that had risen, and fallen and risen and fallen again, and so forth, and how the empires had failed. Then they began to speak about, “Wonder if there will ever be

a day when we will have a kingdom that'll fall no more?"

It was about that time, one of the brethren of their association brought out the readings of Daniel. Now, Daniel certainly knew something about them because he was made their chief in the Babylonian kingdom. Daniel was the chief of the magicians. He was the master of them all, and him being their master, they kept his writings. So the manuscript was presented for study that night. While they were looking upon this manuscript, they fell onto these words: "And Daniel said, 'I beheld until I seen a Stone cut out of the mountain without hands. And it subdued all the kingdoms of the world. And it rose up and become the great—covered the whole earth.'" While they were reading this, watching up, knowing every star there was in the solar system that human eyes could see, it was about that time that the stranger appeared.

They worshipped the one true God by a sacred fire. They watched the licking of the blazes, for they knew that the one true God dwelt in Light. And that's true. God dwells in Light. When He was on earth manifested in flesh, He said, "I am the Light of the world," because God was manifested through Him. He was the Light, the Pillar of Fire, that led the children of Israel. He was the Light that struck Paul down on his road to Damascus. He was the Light that came into the prison with Peter. He's the Light that's on that picture. He's the Light that's in my heart. He's the Light that's in this church. He is the everlasting Light, and in Him is no darkness. And "They who walk in the Light, have fellowship one with another, while the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin."

Just walk in the Light and go the right directions towards Calvary; it'll lead you to

your healing and to your blessing. Just take the Light with you as you go.

God dwells in light and those Magis knew that. As they stood in the light of the fire and looked towards the solar system, there was a stranger. It was a different one than they'd ever seen before. They never spoke for quite a long time. They wondered.

After a while, they began to discuss, "What is this strange light? It must be something." The only way that I know how to say, the Lord must've given them a dream, because later on we find out that they were warned in a dream. The Lord must've given them a dream that the baby King was being born. That was the same time that Mary and Joseph were looking eastward. God makes every cog come right to its fitting place.

They thought on these things, then they had to get together their little group, and they wanted to worship Him; they wanted to do

anything they could. So they took gold, frankincense and myrrh. They straddled their camels and started on hundreds times hundreds of miles of journey. It just wasn't an overnight. It took two years for them to get there. Some of us won't walk two city blocks to get to Him, or from the middle of the tabernacle to the altar to get to Him.

They were wanting to find Him. "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst for righteousness; they shall be filled." They had an awful journey. They came down over the mountains, sloped off to the west side, followed the great Tigris River on down till they hit the land of Shinar. They crossed by the ford perhaps, down there in the river Euphrates, and journeyed on through the Sahara. They probably had to travel by night because it was so hot in the daytime and then again, they had to follow the star. It was only shining at night.

Finally, they came to Jerusalem. When they hit Jerusalem, they knew He was a Jew, and they thought that surely He'd be born among the celebrity if He was to be King. Surely, if He was to be religious, He would come to the great Vatican City as it was, the great temple of Solomon. But notice, as they entered Jerusalem, the star went out. God doesn't dwell in the fantastics of this world. Down through the city they went, these wealthy men, those eastern camels all decorated up, great tassels and tapestries a-hanging from them. These royal dressed Magis crying through the night, "Where is He that's born King of the Jews?" The scholar, the teacher, the college professors, the priests, the rabbis, they had no answer. And so is it today. They had no answer for them.

As they went, it must've got a row stirred. They said, "But we have seen His star in the east, and we've come to worship Him." Two years journey through the deserts and

swamps and valleys and mountains, “We’ve come to worship Him, oh, tell us where He is.”

So is it the cry of the hungry hearts today, “Where is that Jesus that’s the same yesterday, today, and forever? We have felt His Spirit on us and we’ve come to worship Him.” The big schools and colleges don’t always have the answer to this question. They didn’t that day, and many don’t today. The great high towering steeples, the great plush seats, you know, let’s find Him somewhere down in a little mission somewhere.

As they came, that stirred emotion in Jerusalem, day and night, up-and-down the crooked streets, everywhere, seeing if they could find Him on Hallelujah Avenue. He wasn’t there. He wasn’t there. They tried every street, and He wasn’t there.

All through those great denominational streets, they went back and forth crying, “Where is He? Where is He? He’s born King of the Jews; we long to see Him.” But they couldn’t find any consolation, neither could anyone tell them. As soon as something inspired them to go out the east side of the gate, or the west side, rather, towards Bethlehem, the star lit up the road. Saint Matthew 10:10 said, “And they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” They were going down Hallelujah Avenue; they were going up the Signs and Wonders Street, and they could not rejoice. But when the star appeared, the light came back, then they were hallelujahing, they were rejoicing with exceeding (exceeding is abundance, a whole lots of it) great joy. There was the star!

When Christ reveals Himself to you as the resurrected Son of God, there’s an exceeding abundance of great joy in your heart. You

found a treasure; you found a Pearl that you'll sell everything you've got, to possess It.

The star led them to Bethlehem, and as they began to notice, they kept going, and it hung over this little room where the little One was. They noticed it began to get slower, slower, descending, descending. They begin to say, "Oh, look, it's close; it's almost here. It's getting closer all the time." After a while it slowed up until it completely stopped.

Off the camels they went real quick. They grabbed their gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They had brought that, because they were going to worship a king.

Little did they know maybe at the time, but gold represents a king, a crown. Frankincense is a perfume. That's what He was, a crowned King with a sweet smelling savour, to whosoever will come to breathe in of His aroma of His goodness, to stand in His Presence. Oh, my. To get into His aroma of

the sweetness of His Spirit, He is the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, the Morning Star, a sweet smelling Saviour Who takes away all my sin and heals all my diseases. A sweet smelling savour, they brought Him frankincense.

Then you would say to me, “Preacher, why did they bring Him myrrh? Myrrh is bitter.” Myrrh represented the death that He must die and become marred, and the sins of the world. He’d have to drink the bitter cup of Gethsemane. That’s why they brought Him myrrh. Gold for a King, frankincense as a savour, and myrrh for the bitterness He must die for you and I.

How can we, when the Morning Star of His blessing has descended from the heaven with the signs and the wonders of His second coming, ever sit and let it pass by us without opening up our hearts and everything within them and worshipping Him as our King? We surely should be as thankful as the Magis.

God hates sin, but he loves the sinner. He loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that He might drink the bitter cup for you. Remember, He became you, that you might become Him. He became a sinner, separated from the Father, when He screamed, "My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" He was separated from God in His death, that you in your death might have God's Presence. He became a child of sin, your sins, not His own, yours, that you might become a child of obedience. He took your place as a time creature, that you might take His place as an eternal son and daughter of God.

Has the Morning Star shed any light on your path?

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