



Jesus, Light of the World
Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany

- Runs for 12 days after Christmas
- Celebrates Jesus as the light of the world
- Today we are in the season of Epiphany



The Magi

- The story found in Matthew 2:1-12 – Magi, who are Gentiles (like us), are searching for the coming King



The Rising of the Star
Matthew 2:1-2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

'Rising of the Star'

- 'Star' – 4x – v2,7,9,10
- The Magi come to Jerusalem following the star
- Takes place during the time of Herod – Herodian rule for 150 years in Israel



A Sense of Expectation

- Balaam's prophecy to Balak – "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near — a star shall come out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17a)



- An awareness that God is going to act
- A sense of hope – looking and trusting in God's future actions



A Sense of Fulfillment

- The star has risen – the prophecy has been fulfilled - the Messiah has been born in the baby king (v2)



- Micah's prophecy has been fulfilled – "from you shall come a ruler to shepherd my people Israel" (v6)



An Offering of Worship

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

- They come bearing gifts (v11)
- They are filled with joy (v10)
- The magi serve as models for us to follow
- Raises the question: What are we searching for?





Choosing Fear Over Love

The Story's Dark Thread

- Not everyone chooses the light
- Some prefer the darkness; then and now



Herod, Filled with Fear

- Not only Herod but 'all Jerusalem with him' (v3)
- Seen acted out in the massacre of the innocents with the rage of Herod (v16-17)



Do We Imitate Herod?

- The truth is we often resist God rather than seek him
- We want to go our own way
- We fill and live our lives in fear



Do We Want to Change?

- We seek darkness rather than light
- This is demonstrated as we choose enmity rather than reconciliation



Choosing Love Over Fear

Receiving Christ's Love

- To receive Christ's love for us
- To move into that sphere of love
- To pass that love on to others



Choosing Light Over Darkness

- To make a decision to choose light, peace, love
- To not give in to our piccadillos & immediate compensations



Choosing Peacemaking

- To seek reconciliation with others to the best of our ability
- To allow Christ's peace to fill us & then live from that place of peace

