



New Year's Eve Sermon



ARE YOU WISELY ALERT TO YOUR 2015 SURROUNDINGS?

Matthew 2:1-15

A. How God Made the "Wise Men" Wise

1. He directed them **IN THE PRESENT** via the OT Scriptures

¹Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. Then Wise Men came from the east to Jerusalem. ²"Where is the Child who was born King of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

³When King Herod heard about it, he became alarmed and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He called together all the ruling priests and scribes of the people and tried to find out from them where the **Christ [Messiah]** was to be born.

⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they told him, "because the prophet has written:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means the least among the leading towns of Judah, since from you will come a Leader who will shepherd My people Israel" (cf. Micah 5:2).

⁷Then Herod secretly called the Wise Men and found out from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸As he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, "Go and search carefully for the little Child, and when you find Him, report to me so that I too may go and bow down before Him."

⁹After hearing the king, they started out. And there was the star they had seen in the east! It led them on until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰They were extremely happy to see the star. ¹¹They went into the house and saw the little Child with His mother Mary. They knelt and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2. He directed them **INTO THE FUTURE** with additional instructions

¹²But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went back to their country by another road.

B. How God Made Joseph & Mary Wise Parents

1. He got them out of "harm's way"

¹³After the Wise Men left, Joseph in a dream saw an angel of the Lord, who said, "Get up, take the little Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him."

2. He moved them to follow His instructions (cf. Joseph & Mary to Adam & Eve)

¹⁴Joseph got up at night, took the little Child and His mother, and went to Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. In this way what the Lord said through the prophet was fulfilled: **"I called My Son out of Egypt."** (Recall this prophecy about Jesus in Numbers 24:7b-9.)

