

DAY 10: Time to leave the familiar – wise men traveled following the star

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’” Matthew 2:1–2

The news of the nativity story was not contained in Bethlehem. Magi from the east were following the signs of the savior’s birth. Two things are worth noting about these men: they believed Jesus was not only the king of the Jews, but the savior of mankind, and they were willing to leave the familiar of their daily lives in search of Jesus.

The magi, also known as wise men, were gentiles. They were probably astrologers from Persia or Southern Arabia. As people from another country, they traveled to Jerusalem, the capital, to narrow down their search for Jesus. News traveled fast and King Herod learned of these magi and their search for the ‘king of the Jews’, a title that threatened his position as ruler and king of Judea. King Herod met with the magi to find out the exact time when the star had appeared and sent them to Bethlehem, instructing them to return to him with the details so that he too could ‘worship the child’.

When the wise men started their journey to Bethlehem, the star guided them to the right place. They found Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped Him. Afterwards, they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their country by another route.

Jesus is referred to as the bright morning star (*Revelations 22:16*); the light that breaks the darkness of the night. Jesus came to end the darkness of sin. He will return to end the long night of mourning and suffering of His people. His light will cover everything (*Rev. 21:4, 22:5*). So, no matter how dark or long

your nights may have been this year, remember His light and joy comes in the morning. Are you willing to leave the familiar for Christ? Be assured he will guide you each step of the way once you start the journey.

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always time to rejoice. Sing today’s carol with joy and gratitude for His light that still guides us today.

We Three Kings of Orient Are



WE three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding.
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Earth to the heavens replies.