

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM!

Matthew 2:1-11

DO WE REALLY UNDERSTAND THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

Brando Roberts reported in Christian Herald, 11/1988

reading the story of Jesus' birth to her day-care children one morning. she stopped to see if they understood.:

"What do we call the three wise men?" I asked.

The three maggots," replied a bright 5-year-old.

"What gift did the Magi bring baby Jesus?" I corrected.

"Gold, Frankensteins and smurfs!" the same 5-year-old replied.

Christians aren't *that* far off on the Christmas story, --but we do embellish the story a bit with some traditional ideas!

MESSIANIC AUTHENTICATION 1-7

Matthew begins to establish his case concerning what has happened to God's plan by demonstrating that Jesus was the Messiah.

JESUS' CREDENTIALS 1-4

Testimony is presented from many sources, some of them very unlikely sources, to demonstrate that He was the Messiah.

TESTIMONY OF JESUS' GENEALOGY 1:1-17

Matthew summarizes significance of the genealogy he's about to outline.

Jesus is a descendant of David and of Abraham.

As their descendant, He is heir to all the promises made to them.

Thus His genealogy testifies to His claim to be the Messiah of Israel.

TESTIMONY OF JESUS' BIRTH 1:18-25

Unusual nature of Jesus' birth demonstrated that Jesus was the Messiah.

1) EVIDENCE: THE VIRGIN BIRTH 18-19

"She was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit"

His mother did not conceive in the normal way, but enabled by Spirit.

His godly character is seen in his response to this situation.

He was concerned to seek her welfare, not vengeance.

He didn't want to expose her, or make a spectacle of her.

He just wanted to walk away and find healing for His troubled heart!

So he decided to divorce her quietly, in secret.

2) EVIDENCE: THE ANGEL 20-21

After Joseph thought this through and came to this solution, an angel appeared to him and explained *God's* plan. Actually He likes God's plan better than his own!

God makes him an active participant in the plan also.

Joseph would give the child the name that would announce to the world

God's purpose in the birth of His Son.

"YOU shall call His name *"Jesus"*, Greek name derived from "Joshua" that means "Yahweh saves" ["The salvation of Yahweh"]

This child would be the means God would use to save His people from their sins.

3) EVIDENCE: THE SCRIPTURES 22-23

The witness of the angel was confirmed by the Scriptures.

The prophet had promised this earlier– Isa. 7:14

Birth of the son was a sign to God's people of His presence with them.

Jesus' birth to the virgin was **a sign of His presence with them.**

TWO KEY NAMES OF OUR LORD: (Seen in this passage)

(1) **JESUS**– "**The salvation of Yahweh**" v. 21

"It is He who will save His people from their sins"

(2) **EMMANUEL**– "**God with us**" v. 23

4) EVIDENCE: JOSEPH'S ACCEPTANCE 24-25

Great confirmation that God was at work in Jesus' birth: Joseph was convinced to accept Mary as his wife, in spite of her condition.

In midst of macho society, he accepts the testimony and marries her.

Notice that Joseph calls His name Jesus, "SALVATION"

He recognizes that this one is the source of his own salvation!

TESTIMONY OF THE MAGI 2:1-12

Story the source of much confusion.

- * *It doesn't say how many.*
 - * *It doesn't call them kings.*
 - * *It doesn't say they followed the star from their home to Palestine*
They knew where to go on the basis of their tradition
They were only able to follow the star from Herod to Bethlehem
 - * *It doesn't say they came to see Jesus in the manger.*
v. 7–Herod asked them when it appeared.
v. 16–Herod had all the children 2 and under slain. Could have been two years later! That was the timing that they had indicated to him.
 - * *It doesn't say Herod killed thousands of babies.*
It was a relatively minor event.
Just one more of Herod's treacherous deeds that included killing his own children and wives to prevent them taking the throne.
The town is described as being insignificant; a relatively small town.
The deaths may well have only involved a dozen or so. Still a tragic, violent loss, but not on the scale usually imagined.
- Even leaders from pagan nations were convinced by the unusual nature of the star confirming the birth of Israel's Messiah.***

We really don't know the source or nature of their traditions.

Somehow God prepared for them to know about this sign.

Pagan wise men knew significance of event even if Israel slept through it!

5 ADDITIONAL EVIDENCES that Jesus was the Messiah:

1) EVIDENCE: THE STAR 1-2

Magi saw sign of the star in the east and made a long trip to worship this extraordinary king that had been born.

They expected to find a great celebration over the birth of this great king. When they got to Jerusalem, no one even knew a king had been born! This startling bit of news left Herod and all Jerusalem greatly troubled!

2) EVIDENCE: THE BIRTHPLACE 3-6

Old Testament confirmed the place of His birth 3-6
Scholars knew exactly where it was supposed to happen.
It wasn't Mary and Joseph's plan to go there. Pagan emperor sent them.
Place of birth provides another evidence that Jesus was the Messiah.

3) EVIDENCE: HEROD'S FEAR AND PLOT 7-8

News of His birth causes Herod to fear and to seek to destroy Him 3-8

4) EVIDENCE: THEIR WORSHIP 9-11

When they arrived at Bethlehem, the star directed them to Jesus and they worshiped Him.

When they saw the star again, they rejoiced "greatly, exceedingly, with great joy!" They were excited! It was one more confirmation of the significance of this event.

They realized the birth of this king was different!

Though Israel did not realize the significance of Jesus' birth, foreign magi and a half-breed king were aware of its significance.

5) EVIDENCE: GOD'S PROTECTION 12

God demonstrated His relationship to the events by protecting Jesus from Herod's plot.

TESTIMONY OF JESUS' ORIGINS 2:13-23

TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER 3:1-12

TESTIMONY OF HIS BAPTISM 3:13-17

TESTIMONY OF SATAN 4:1-11

TESTIMONY OF HIS FOLLOWERS 4:12-22

TESTIMONY OF HIS WORKS 4:23-25

1st 4 chapters of Matthew present at least 12 evidences Jesus is Messiah.

Everything was ready. Messiah had come!

There was no reason to doubt.

However, **in spite of all the evidence, His own people reject Him.**

John 1:11-12

Now the choice is ours. We've seen the evidence. How will we respond?

What will we do with Jesus? John 1:12

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WILL YOU?