

The Saviour Comes and Begins His Work

This week – God makes it absolutely clear – We are either for Him, or we are against Him.

**They shall call His name Emmanuel,
which being interpreted is, God with us. *Matthew 1v23***

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Matthew 2v1-11 (The Wise Men worship Christ in Bethlehem)	
Monday	Matthew 2v12-23 (Protection for a while in Egypt)	
Tuesday	Hosea 11v1, 13v4 (Prophecies of Christ coming out of Egypt)	
Wednesday	Luke 2v21-35 (Simeon saw the Lord's Christ (8 days))	
Thursday	Philippians 2v1-18 (Christ as a Man humbled Himself)	
Friday	John 3 v1-21 (We must believe in the Son of God)	
Saturday	Matthew 12v23-37 (Those who are not for Me are against Me)	

Important Lesson for us Today: What a wonderful and perfect example the Lord Jesus Christ has set us of humility! Being eternal and almighty God He agreed to leave Heaven to come to earth as a perfect Man, Immanuel – God with us. His humility was manifest in His accepting the limitation of being in a human body; mixing with sinful men, (yet without sin); giving Himself into their sinful hands to be falsely accused, tried, beaten, and condemned to be crucified. He had come from Heaven with the express purpose of taking the full punishment from His Father for the sin of His People. His selfless action was honoured by His Father, when on the third day He rose again (victorious over sin, death, Hell, and the grave), and was glorified as King of kings, and Lord of lords, as He ascended into Heaven, with the promise that He would return as Judge on the great and awesome Day of Judgement.

Have we humbly repented of our sin and are we humbly serving Him in order to be ready for our entry into eternal Heaven? On the Day of Judgement, if we do not have Christ as our Lord and Saviour, then we will be humbled and be judged as eternally lost. **Come to the Lord now.**

Hymn 231 reminding us of the Wise Men who sought the Lord to worship Him.

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| <p>1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright:
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.</p> | <p>2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee Whom Heaven and earth adore:
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat.</p> |
| <p>3. Saviour Jesus, every day
Keep us on the heavenly way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.</p> | <p>4. In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King.</p> |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

The Wise Men and Herod.

- **Two Opposing Responses to Christ's Birth and Who He Is.**
We must ask, "What is my response?" "Am I taking Him seriously?"
- **The Wise Men – Gentiles - Observed with an Open Mind.**
 - **They investigated with due diligence, thoroughly and scientifically.**
 - They studied the stars nightly, using them as a clock, a calendar and for navigation.
 - They detected a new, unique star; very different. It moved slowly across the sky.
 - They asked themselves, "What does it mean?" "Is something significant happening?"
 - They searched the Persian writings. Daniel was a captive here 600 years earlier.
 - Balaam prophesied, "**A Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.**" *Numbers 24v17.*
 - They followed the star 800 miles to Jerusalem; searching for the new-born King.
 - The star disappeared: they assumed the baby must be living in Herod's palace.
- **King Herod – A Bigoted Jew - With a Closed Mind.**
 - **Herod was wilfully ignorant, even though he lived in the land of the Bible.**
 - Within the last year the Lord Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, 7 miles away.
 - Christ's birth had been celebrated by angels, the shepherds, and many others.
 - When the Lord was 8 days old, He was presented at the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - But Herod knew nothing of any of these events; he did not respect God or believe the Scriptures, He did not look for God's Messiah, promised in the Old Testament.
- **Who Do We Most Resemble? The Wise Men or King Herod?**
 - **The Wise Men** took notice and would not rest until they found the Saviour.
 - **They found the Lord** and worshipped Him as God - Prophet, Priest, and King.
 - **The Lord** warned them to not tell Herod and to go home another way.

Do you want to find God for yourself? Are you seeking diligently, prayerfully, whatever the cost?

- **Herod was jealous** and very hostile; He just pretended to be interested.
- **His Vicious Enmity** caused him to order the death of all boys under 2 years.
- **Herod** had to face the consequences of his evil and sinful life.

Do you have a Bible but do not read it or search it? Are you hostile to God's call to repentance?

- **What Is Our Response? What is Our Attitude to God's Son?**
 - Are you like the Wise Men, open to the truth of the good news of the Saviour? Do you respect His humility? – of lowly parents, born in a stable, to be crucified. Are you ready to rejoice that your sins can be forgiven and its' guilt removed?
 - **OR**, do you put on a false front like Herod, pretending to be interested? Are we pleasant to people, but inwardly hostile towards our Creator God?

Unbelief, ignoring God throughout our life, always leads to worse sin, which leads to destruction. Let us follow the Wise Men in seeking the Saviour, falling at His feet in adoration and worship.

The Lord Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3v19,20.