

EPIPHANY



MATTHEW 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.



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⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.



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⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.



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¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



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ASSESSING THE MAGI

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ASSESSING THE MAGI

- Saw enough to leave their land
- Passionate pursuit vs. comfort



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WRONG TURN?



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STRONGHOLDS



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An event or a way of thinking that creates a mindset that accepts a situation or behavior as unchangeable even though we know it is against the will of God.



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- Herod's stronghold was power and notoriety



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- Priest's stronghold was pride and arrogance
- Herod's stronghold was power and notoriety
- The Magi's stronghold was pagan rituals and worship



STRONGHOLDS

- Codependence
- Money
- Parents
- Drug abuse
- Relationships
- Rape
- Abuse
- Selfishness
- Bitterness
- Fear



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One group went on with life, other group went on to worship.



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- **The Gold** - Represented His royalty
- **Frankincense** - An expensive tar that was burned in the temple as a symbol of prayer
- **Myrrh** - An expensive resin used in embalming; representing Jesus' death



OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS



OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS

- Admitting where you have them



OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS

- Admitting where you have them
- Don't blame anyone



OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS

- Admitting where you have them
- Don't blame anyone
- See what God says



OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS

- Admitting where you have them
- Don't blame anyone
- See what God says
- Ask God to change your mind and environment



EPIPHANY



EPIPHANY

1. Press the reset button



EPIPHANY

1. Press the reset button
2. Christ appearing gives you something to move toward



EPIPHANY

1. Press the reset button
2. Christ appearing gives you something to move toward
3. Reminds us that we are welcomed to worship



EPIPHANY

1. Press the reset button
2. Christ appearing gives you something to move toward
3. Reminds us that we are welcomed to worship
4. Reminds us that there are still sojourners



UPCOMING WEEKS

- Vision Sunday
- Baptism Celebration

