

Rejoice, Announce, Worship.

1. Shepherds: Luke 2: 8-20:

The message was that "a Savior," **Christ the Lord**, was born. This was Good News of great joy. The angel was then joined by a **great company** of other angels engaged in **praising God** in the highest. **Let us now go** shows a real urgency. They didn't hesitate at all.

After seeing the Baby, they rejoiced and were the first messengers to proclaim the arrival of the Messiah: they **spread the word**.

- **Rejoice.**

Oh holy night!

The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth, A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Psalm 32:11 - Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice, the LORD is come.

- **Announce.**

Psalm 96:2 - Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere, that Jesus Christ is born, He is LORD.

2. Mathew 2:1-12: The Wise Men.

The Magi, likely they were Gentiles of high position from Babylon, who were given a special revelation by God of the birth of the King of the Jews. This special revelation may simply have been in the sky, as they were specialists in astronomy. Or this revelation could have come through some contact with Jews who had migrated to the East with copies of Old Testament manuscripts especially from Daniel.

It is no surprise that King Herod...was disturbed when the Magi came to Jerusalem looking for the One who had been "born King". He descended from Esau, an Edomite who had deep hatred for the Jews.

The answer to Herod's question was simple, Micah the prophet had given the precise location centuries before: the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2.

More important than their gifts is the fact that they worshipped Jesus. It must have been a curious sight to see these impressive dignitaries bowing before a young child.

Herod displayed an open hatred and hostility toward Jesus, the chief priests and the scribes were indifferent toward Jesus, all the while retaining their religiosity, the wise men sought out Jesus, and worshipped Him - even at great cost.

- They persevered in their search and in following after the star; they were not discouraged by the search difficulties.

Deuteronomy 4:29 - *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

- When they entered in, they worshipped. They sensed an urgency to worship Him now and not wait until later.

John 4:23-24 - *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

- When they worshipped, it was to give something - not empty-handed adoration.
- Poor boy having no gifts fit for a king offering to play his drums for him.
- They're those who go as far as giving ten percent of their time everyday to God.

2 Samuel 24:24 - *Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

We see a wonderful pattern: "Those who look for Jesus will see him: those who truly see him will worship him: those who worship him will consecrate their substance to him." (Spurgeon).

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand,
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend,
Fall on your knees.

- I. **Seek:** *And the star still shines After all this time As a light for me and you It beckons us to seek him Wise men still do.*
- II. **Rejoice:** Rejoice, rejoice, the LORD is come.
- III. **Announce:** Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere, that Jesus Christ is born, He is LORD.
- IV. **Worship:** Let us take him gold, frankincense.