

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Three

EVENTS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Matt. 2:1-23

Burden to Impart:

The baby Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, even God Himself. He came to be the Savior of the world and is therefore the most important One in the universe. God made the birth of His Son known to both the Jewish shepherds (His called people) and to the Gentile magi (who were not His called people), to the simple and to the wise. These ones treasured Christ's birth. They sought Him and, as the Lord Jesus promised (Matt. 7:8), they found Him. But Satan also knew of Jesus' birth. The Devil was working through the evil King Herod to attempt to destroy Christ, even as a baby. God, however, guided Joseph, and preserved Jesus' life. God safely hid His treasure, His beloved Son, far away in Egypt and then later in the despised town of Nazareth.

Memory Verse: "Where is He who is born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and came to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).

Facts to Teach:

1. The Jewish shepherds were informed about the birth of Christ, the Savior and King of Israel, directly by an angel sent from God (Luke 2:9).
2. The Gentile wise men (the magi) realized that the long awaited King of the Jews had been born because they had seen "His star in the east" (Matt. 2:2).
3. The wise men saw the star and then came to Jerusalem to inquire where the King of the Jews should be born. Jerusalem was the capitol of the land of Israel. Herod the king heard of the seeking of the wise men and became troubled, so he asked the Jewish chief-priests and the scribes where the Christ would be born.
4. The chief-priests and scribes who were the religious Jewish scholars knew the prophecies about where their Messiah, the Christ, should be born, but they had no heart to go and find their newborn King. Instead, they merely informed King Herod where He would be born. King Herod then directed the wise men to go to Bethlehem where Christ would be born. He told them to return to him and inform him so that he could also go to worship the Lord. This was Herod's deceit. Actually, he wanted to kill the new baby-King.
5. Once the wise men left Jerusalem, they were guided by the star directly to the place where Jesus was. They worshipped Him when they found Him and gave their treasures to Him.
6. God warned Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem and to flee to another country, Egypt, in order to save Jesus' life. When the wise men did not come back to inform King Herod where Jesus was born, he became enraged. Since he could not know which baby was Jesus, he ordered his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys under two years of age. This was Satan's plot to destroy Christ.
7. After King Herod died, the Lord again spoke to Joseph in a dream and led him and his family back to the land of Israel.
8. Once in the land of Israel, the Lord again warned Joseph in a dream and he went far away from Jerusalem, to Galilee, to a despised city called Nazareth.

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Songs for Lesson Three

EVENTS AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH

Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

D G D
Lo! The wise men saw the star,
 G D A D
 Telling them that Christ was born.
 G D A
They went to Jerusalem,
 D G D A
 But the Baby wasn't there.
 D G D
Then they went to Bethlehem;
 G D A D
 There they found the Son of God.

Tune: *Hymns, #889.*

 D A
Oh, do come, do come and worship,
 D A D
 For the Son of God is born.
 A
God is born a human being
 D A D
 As the Babe of Bethlehem.
 Em
See the star up in the sky,
 A D
 Follow it and you will find
 A D A
God's own Son, beloved Treasure,
 D A D
 Baby Jesus, Christ the Lord.

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(Story for lesson 3)

FOUND BY SHEPHERDS AND WISEMEN

Memory verse: A Savior was born to you today in David's city, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Nearby the manger where the Lord Jesus was born, in the countryside, were shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night. The angel of the Lord came to them and a great light shone all around them and they were very afraid. The angel said to them, "Fear not, do not be afraid. This day, near by, in the city of David, a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. You will find the Babe wrapped in soft white clothes and lying in a manger."

As soon as he had said this, the shepherds saw many angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace and good will to earth."

As the angels left in the clouds, the shepherds said to each other, "Come, let us go to Bethelhem and see this great thing which God has done as the angel has told us." So they came into the city and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in the manger. And they were filled with wonder at what God had showed them.

Do you know who had to travel a long journey to see the little Lord Jesus? It was wisemen from a far country. God saw that they wanted to find the "long promised King" to bring Him gifts and to worship Him. So God gave them a star to guide them to where He was. This was a wonderful help to them. They were grateful to God. They followed for many miles. But then they made a great mistake when they turned aside to ask the king in that country, Herod, where they would find this new little King. Then the Bible tells us that King Herod and all that were with him were troubled. He himself demanded of the scribes to know where the Christ, the King, should be born. They knew the answer and said, "In Bethelhem." So, King Herod sent the wisemen to Bethelhem and he pretended that he wanted to worship Christ, the King, also. Then the wisemen started toward Bethelhem. They knew that they had done the wrong thing in turning aside to ask King Herod's help. Surely that was not God's leading. Now, where was God's star? Then the Bible tells us how they rejoiced when they saw the star again. Now they could trust God and follow His star and they would see His Son.

The star led them to the house where they saw the young child with Mary, his mother. Here they bowed down in thanks to God and worshiped Him. They opened their treasures and gave to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. They brought Him gold because He was God's own Son and God was His Father. Gold is for a King. The little Lord Jesus is the King of Kings and He is the only true God. They brought Him frankincense, an incense that produces a very nice smelling fragrance when it is burned. This was because He would live His life in resurrection, a life so sweet and precious to the Father that three times the Father opened the heavens and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Also, they brought Him myrrh. Myrrh is an incense that speaks of death. The whole human life of the Lord Jesus is expressed in the frankincense and myrrh. He always denied Himself and sacrificed Himself for others. Eventually, He gave up Himself to die upon a cruel cross for the sins of the whole world, for He had no sins of His own.

Although the wisemen might not have understood the meaning of the treasures they offered Him, we do. Jesus is the beloved Son of God, who lived the most wonderful life on this earth. His life was one that delighted and satisfied God; His life was a continuous sacrifice to redeem us. His life was one of "gold, frankincense and myrrh."