

# Three Wise Men

Not much is known about these wise men who came out of the East in search of the new-born King of the Jews, everything that is known is good, [Matthew 2:1-12].

As far as we know these men did **not** have the advantage of a written revelation as did the Jews. They travelled seeking the Creator God in the hope that they would find Him, and by His goodness they did.

By a tradition borrowed from the Jews, they learned that a Redeemer-King was to come out of Israel and their hearts conceived a great longing to worship Him and to lay some gift at His feet.

**Imperfect and sketchy as their faith was, God honoured it by providing a guide to lead them to the Saviour they sought.**

**The star could well have been an angel, for angels are referred to as stars, Greek word “aster,” and revealed to be angels in Revelation.**

**Revelation 1:20** [New King James] *“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”*

Referring to angels allocated for special protection and work with different church fellowships.

**The story of the three wise men is one to meditate on in this day of universal Christian lethargy.**

**Two things within their story cry out loudly as examples for us to follow.**

**One is that these men with scanty theological knowledge were in a better position to meet with the Creator God than the self-satisfied person, however deeply instructed in the scriptures.**

**Remember the wise men were Gentiles, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, without the True God, [Ephesians 2:11-12] yet when they saw the messenger of God they left all to make a long and dangerous journey to lay worthy gifts at the feet of Jesus Christ in an act of worship.**

In contrast the chief priests, scribes, lawyers and rulers of the synagogues – all keen-eyed students of the scriptures and experts in the law and the prophets, yet as far as we know not one of them had spiritual awareness of the coming of the looked-for Messiah.

**These men were well able to tell the wise men what the prophets had written about the birthplace of the King, but their knowledge was merely formal and not something to be acted on.**

**Secondly – the second message the story of the wise men bring to us is that they came to Jesus Christ not to gain something from Him but to give something to Him.**

Such circumstances are most unusual, contrary to everything we have been hearing from Christian ministers.

**Imagine coming to Jesus Christ with any other motive but to gain something from Him!**

This one act of the wise men almost stands alone in the recorded life of Jesus Christ, except for very few recorded.

**Mark 14:3-9** [New King James] *“And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the*

*flask and poured it on His head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, 'Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.' And they criticised her sharply. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.'*"

**This is an example of a costly gift given freely to Jesus Christ.**

Also the two Marys and Joseph of Arimathea who, expecting nothing, but out of selfless love cared for the body of the crucified Jesus Christ, [Matthew 27:57-61; Matthew 28:1-8].

Possibly there were more than we know, and love dictates that we at least hope that there were more.

**Apparently the people of Jesus Christ's day, like today, thought of Him as a source of help and little more.**

**A source of help Jesus Christ was and still is, but a great deal more.**

**Jesus Christ is our Saviour, but we must never forget He is also our Creator, life-giver and Lord, [John 1:1-5, 14].**

**Which makes Jesus Christ infinitely worthy of our ardent, poured-out love and devotion altogether apart from anything else.**

While Jesus Christ walked on earth many came to Him and the motives that brought them were almost as many as those who came.

They sought to make Him a King for personal political gain, they sought advancement to a higher office for personal ends as did James and John and their mother Salome, [Matthew 20:20-23].

People came for healing, for deliverance from evil spirits, all such motives were good and legitimate, if at times questionable and certainly not completely free from selfishness of some sort.

**Luke 17:12-19** [New King James] *"Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' So when He saw them, He said to them, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?' And He said to him, 'Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.'"*

Once ten lepers came to Jesus. In great distress they called out for Jesus Christ to heal them.

**Yet only one of the ten returned to thank Jesus Christ and worship Him out of gratitude for what He had done.**

**With the knowledge that is available to us in God's Word, the Christian Bible, of the great healing we can receive from our deserved eternal death because of our sins, [Romans 6:23] how should we respond?**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship."*

**This is the response that our Eternal God is desiring to the love and mercy He has extended to us through Jesus Christ.**

A complete surrender [sacrifice] of our lives to Him to use to extend the message of His desire for all humanity.

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

That all humans would come to the point of repentance so He could heal them also and lead them to conversion, to living a new life that is in harmony with His, for only then can God offer us the gift of eternal life, [**Romans 6:23**].

**As the three wise men with their limited understanding knew what God expected of them, to offer Him precious gifts, so we should offer to Him what is most precious to us, our life.**

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” in **Romans 12:1** is “*soma*” meaning our whole life, physical body, mind and “*human spirit*,” [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27**] so that the Holy Spirit can begin to re-educate us, [**Romans 12:2**] preparing us for eternal life with God, [**John 17:3**].