



# We Three Kings

*Grace Baptist Church*

*December 20, 2015*

*Adult Sunday School*



# We Three Kings

- The Purpose of this lesson is to:
  - Show where the tradition may have originated
  - Expound the scriptures that may have been ignored over the years

Starting text: Matthew 2: 1 - 18



1. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
2. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
3. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
5. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
6. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
7. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
9. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.
10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.
11. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
12. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.
13. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.
14. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:
15. And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.
16. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.
17. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,
18. In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

# We Three Kings

1. What we do know from these verses?

- They were wise men (v.1)
- From the East (v.1)
- Came to worship (v.2)
- They brought gifts (v.11)



# We Three Kings

## 2. What I would like to know:

- What is the connection between wise men & kings
- Why were they coming from the East?
- Where in the East?
- Who were they?
- Who do they represent?





# We Three Kings

3. Church History (600A.D.) tells us that in the Armenian tradition they were:

- From Persia
- There names were:
  - Mekon
  - Balthaser
  - Gaspar
- Where did that originate? Let's look a little closer...



# We Three Kings ★ A Closer Look

- Matthew portrays Jesus as a King (compared to Luke)
- Traces his ancestry back to Abraham
- Kings shall come out of thee – Gen. 17:1-8
- God knew Abraham – Gen. 18:16-19
- Sarah Dies – Gen. 24:67
- Abraham takes Keturah to wife – Gen. 25:1-5 go to 1Chron. 1:32-33







# We Three Kings – A Closer Look

1Chron. 1:32-33:

*32. Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan.*

*33. And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Ephher, and Henoah, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these are the sons of Keturah.*



# We Three Kings ✨ A Closer Look

Is. 60:1-6:

1. *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*
2. *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*
3. *And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*
4. *Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.*
5. *Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*
6. *The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.*



# We Three Kings – A Closer Look

## A. Midian:

- Killed by Hadad -1 Chron. 1:46
- Day of Midian – Is. 9:4
- Slaughter of Midian – Is. 10:26
- Land of Midian – Hab. 3:7
- Dromedaries of Midian – Is. 60:6
- Midianites – Jud. 6:1-5



# We Three Kings – A Closer Look

B. Ephah:

- Little mention of Ephah
- City named after him
- Last mention: Is.60:6





# We Three Kings – A Closer Look

C. Sheba:

- Gold – 1 Ki. 10:1-13, Ps. 72:10,15
- Incense – Jer. 6:20
- Queen of the South – Matt. 12:42
- Merchants – Ez. 27:22
- Brings Gold – Is. 60:1-6





# We Three Kings

## 4. What we know now:

- What is the connection between wise men & kings? *A. They were descendants of Abraham and were Gentile kings from their mother Keturah – Abraham's wife.*
- Why were they coming from the East? *A. They were coming to worship the descendants of their father Abraham.*
- Where in the East? *A. Persia (modern day Iran).*
- Who were they? *A. Descendants of Midian, Ephah and Sheba.*
- Who do they represent? *A. The Gentile Kingdoms as prophesized in Is. 60: 1-6.*



The image features a solid blue background. At the top center, there is a bright, multi-pointed star with a long, thin vertical beam of light extending downwards. In the lower-left corner, there is a black silhouette of a camel standing on a light blue, textured surface that resembles sand or a desert floor. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and positioned in the upper-middle part of the image.

Questions?