

Sunday of the Epiphany

January 5, 2025

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

The Story You Thought You Knew
What the Bible Really Says About Christmas

SERMON FOR TODAY:

"The Mission of the Magi"

Scripture: St. Matthew 2:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon Notes

What is it that you are seeking in this New Year of 2025? Everybody is seeking something. Let's look at the key characters in today's biblical story, what they were searching for, and how they challenge us to seek the right things in the days ahead:

1) Herod was seeking _____.

Christ was born during the latter years of King Herod's reign, 37 B.C. - 4 A.D., a demented despot driven by the need to dominate.

2) The religious leaders were seeking _____.

Herod sought to maintain his power; the religious leaders sought to maintain their traditions and customs.

3) The Wise Men were seeking _____.

**Herod was seeking power; the chief priest and teachers of the law were seeking to maintain the status quo; but the Magi were seeking the promised child, so that they might worship him.
Are you?**

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