

# Journey to Bethlehem (Part 2)

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Last we started a series entitled The Journey to Bethlehem inspired by the title of the movie released this year that, among other things, explores some of the personal difficulties and struggles that may have been encountered in the Christmas Story.

We talked about how their journey to Bethlehem mimics our own mental, emotional, and spiritual Journey with Christ that...

- begins as we receive the invitation to be born again and have Jesus live within us,
- continues as we grow and mature as followers and disciples of Christ,
- and culminates with our welcome into the presence of God for eternity.

It's a journey that includes amazing promises, difficulties and struggles, ups and downs, mighty miracles, divine revelation and guidance, the peace, protection and provision of God and much more.

Last week we focused on Mary & Joseph's journey and said that it reveals to us that...

**We may EXPERIENCE UNCERTAINTY about the plans of God...**

- But God will provide ongoing revelation, guidance, and encouragement.

**We CAN EXPECT HARD CHOICES and BEING MISUNDERSTOOD...**

- But God provides the comfort and assurance of others who are on the same journey.
- And God Himself is with us on the Journey.

**We will ENCOUNTER difficulties and struggles along the way...**

- But God protects and provides each step of the way.

Today I want to look at another journey that was made to Bethlehem - The Journey of The Magi - and explore what it teaches us about our own Journey with Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## The Journey to Bethlehem...

- Begins with God's Invitation to worship THE KING

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## The Journey To Bethlehem...

- Will Require Making a Choice Between Two Kings

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## The Journey To Bethlehem...

- Will Change The Direction of Your Life

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