



TIME OF GRACE®

Gracenotes

guides for personal Bible study

Too Stressed to Feel Blessed: The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12: ¹“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and 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.’ ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When 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.”’ ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He 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.’ ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

Points to Ponder

1. Why did the wise men travel so far and bring such expensive gifts for Jesus? In what ways do you worship your Savior?
2. What was it that King Herod hoped for? How was that threatened by the news the wise men brought to him?

3. The star led the wise men to Jerusalem to find Jesus, but what was it that ultimately led them to Jesus and the peace and joy he brings?

4. Sometimes our world can be a dark place, but why can we always rejoice like the wise men?

5. Do you have a time for regular study of God's Word? Make a plan for searching it for God's promises of peace and forgiveness for you.

Just like God guided the wise men to the baby Jesus, he also guides us on our paths through life. By looking in God's Word, we find hope, peace, joy, and forgiveness in Jesus, and we too can worship him for such a glorious gift of salvation.

What else does God say?

Isaiah 30:21: Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Philippians 2:10: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.