

Visions and Revelations

Message 6 Review: The Wise Men and the Star (Part 1)

What is the biggest change from the Old Testament to the New Testament? “I am no longer for the Jews alone, I am for the whole earth!” The Lord has shown us five visions to bring in the change of dispensation: from Joseph, Zechariah, Mary, Shepherds, to the wise men. Interestingly, the last vision was given to the Gentiles. Who are the wise men? The Greek word indicates they studied astronomy. The Chinese translation is PhD. They were well equipped with the riches of human life, the human knowledge, and the existence of the universe and man. They were real pursuers, willing to pay a price to gain what was of the highest value.

The Vision Appeared to The Wise Men

As the wise men were studying the skies, they found out there was a star which had never been there before. This star was shining. This star was glowing. This star came into being when the night was about to go and when the day was about to come. They understood, as the bible says, stars indicate people. In creation, God created the light bearers—the sun governs the day and the moon governs the night. He also created the stars. Christ is the sun. The church is the moon. The reality comes from many stars, which represent men. When God promised Abraham “Your descendants will be as the stars.” The wise men knew something great related to God had happened. They knew the Jewish religion had the true God. They had God’s speaking. They had God’s walking among them. They had God’s doing among them. When they saw the star, they realized, “God is coming. A man must have been born to be King of the Jews! Now, let’s go see the King!”

Why were they wise men? They were not teachers or professors, not even message givers. They were real seekers. They didn’t just see something. They paid a price to get the reality. If they are that well-educated and profound, they must not be very young. Some of them may have been older, but some would say, “Let’s go.” Then they began their long journey from the East. They went all the way to the West where the star should be. If the star was related to God’s work, the King was in Jerusalem, “Let’s go to Jerusalem!”

After so much suffering, they got there. Their question was very pure. They didn’t care about politics, not even religion. They only care about the fact: “The One who was born to be King of the Jews, where is He? We saw a star and we came all the way (perhaps close to a two-year walk).” Interestingly, all the Jews were bothered. Weren’t they waiting for Messiah? Herod was the one bothered the most: “What are you talking about? One is going to be born King of the Jews? That means I will be overthrown! I’m the ruler!” Then he got the priests and scribes and asked them where the King of Jews was to be born. Listen to these terrible preachers, bible scholars, and scribes: “Oh yeah...it’s very clear: in the city of Bethlehem. I can show you the verse: ‘But you, Bethlehem...are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a Ruler’” (Matt. 2:6).

If I were there, I would have grabbed the scribes and have shaken them real hard. “Wake up you stupid! You know all of this, but where are you actually? You know the bible, you studied it, you spent a lot of time in the truth, you read this book and that book, you pursued a lot, but where are you?” What really counts? Where are you?!

Another interesting thing is Herod sent the wise men to find the King. The scribes would say, “You go, you find Him, we will reconsider what we should do. We are scribes, we are priests, we have our place in religion. If Christ really comes, we need to think about what we should do in religion.” Surprisingly, the star came down for the wise men. We don’t know how many times the star appeared to them when they went from the East to Jerusalem, maybe every morning for two years. Yet the star was always high in the sky, far away, and remote. As the wise men were on their way to Bethlehem, the star “went ahead of them” and eventually descended to a house (v. 9).

Faithfulness to the Vision

If the star was so high in the heaven, how could it lead them to Bethlehem? How could it lead them to the specific house? The star must have come lower and lower in their sight. Brother, don’t despise the vision you see. If you are faithful in the vision you see, the vision will become more and more intimate. The vision will become closer and nearer to you. The vision can lead you. It can even

become the reality of your footsteps. You're able to go step by step because of that vision.

Faithfulness to a vision is not a small thing. Most people see a vision, but for some reason, they stop there. These wise men saw a vision, they paid a price to get it. This high and heavenly vision came closer and closer to them. They could see the star move. It walked right in front of them. They could walk by following it until it stayed over a house.

I have seen so many brothers have visions. I have seen so few brothers want to pay a price to have the reality of the visions. They can always declare a vision, but it is heavenly and far away from them. But when some brothers declare a vision, it feels so nearby. They can declare a vision by saying, "I know it, I see it, I'm with it, I enjoyed it, it is with me, it leads me, it carries me, it takes me, my life is mingled with the visions I have!"

Gold, Myrrh, Frankincense

When they saw the child, they offered three gifts. The first one was gold, which represents God Himself. "Little child, You are the gold. You are God-man. You are God. You are just God Himself. Outwardly, You are a man, but in reality, in You there is God." The second and third gifts were myrrh and frankincense. Myrrh means His death. Frankincense means His resurrection. "Your whole life will be so expensive. You have to pay a big price. You have to experience a lot of things to accomplish what the gold desires. You will have a life with much more difficulty, yet with much more glory than anyone could expect." These spices go through a lot of processes to be useful. They are not just beautiful. They don't just grow in a certain way. They have to go through a lot of works to become a kind of spice that can give an odor, a fragrance, for you to enjoy.

"Little boy, we see You, we worship You. You are gold. You are a God-man. You are man, but with the golden life, the golden constitution. You will have a hard life. Your life is a life of myrrh. You are also frankincense. You will have a glorious outpouring, a spreading, and a fragrance to all the human race. What a gold! What a myrrh! What a frankincense!" Who were the first to make such declaration? The Gentiles! The Gentile wise men! They saw a vision and they pursued. The Jews didn't.

Before Herod went to kill all the young boys, Joseph led by the angel's speaking to go down to Egypt with his family. I don't understand where the priests were. I don't understand where the scribes were. Just like today, I see so many Christians being spoiled by going to Lord's Day morning meetings, seeking friends, having a Christian society, having a Christian social life. They don't realize how damaged they are. They are not brought to the love of Christ, having the person of Christ as their enjoyment, as their substance, as their reality, as the meaning of their existence. They are just like the scribes: "We know what's going to happen." Many Christians say, "On that day everything will be fine." Brother, be careful, on that day, everything will be fine, but not according to what you think.

Gospel Came to the Gentiles

Persecuted by politics and religion, the Lord Jesus went down to Egypt. Joseph said, "If Herod wants to kill us all, let's go to the Gentiles." The apostle Paul said, "If you Jews will not receive me, let me go to the Gentiles." God says, "I am not just for the Jews. I am for the whole earth. Who were the first ones to honor Me as God? Gentiles. Who was the first ones to tell everyone I would die? Gentiles. Who were the first ones to tell Me there is resurrection? Gentiles. Who were the first ones to see "the Word became flesh" as that star? Gentiles." God is declaring to all of us, "I am not for Chinese. I am not for Americans. I am not for white. I am not for black. I am for all! The whole globe is for My salvation! I am waiting to save everyone!" Whoever believes in Jesus, whoever calls on the name of the Lord, shall be saved! Hallelujah!

Lord, we are thankful. We hope that we can be the wise men. We are not as equipped as them, but we want to pay the price they paid, until your testimony becomes real! May the Lord be merciful and be with us. Amen.