

SEEKING THE SAVIOR

Matthew 2:1-13

INTRODUCTION

- A. Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer
 - 1. Rudolph, Yukon Cornelius, and Hermey were all searching for fame, fortune and happiness.
 - 2. Not unlike so many in the world today.
- B. But what is really important?
 - 1. Jesus – Luke 10:42, only a few things...
 - 2. Paul – Acts 17:25-27, should seek the Lord.
 - 3. David – Psalm 63:1, seek God earnestly.
 - 4. Moses – Deut. 4:29, seek with all your heart will find Him.
- C. There was a group of men who searched for Jesus “with all their heart” (2 Chron. 15:12).
 - 1. The wise men searched for Jesus.
 - 2. The wise men found Jesus.
 - 3. Their lives were better as a result.

I. THEY SOUGHT JESUS.

- A. The Magi, Matthew 2:1.
 - 1. “Magi” is the word from which we get “magic” or “magician”.
 - a. They were noted for their knowledge and perception [wise men].
 - b. They had a reputation for being wise and often served as advisors to kings.
 - c. But to our knowledge were not kings. Psalm 68:29; 72:10-11, 15.
 - 2. It is widely accepted that there were three “wise men”.
 - a. Based on the giving of “three gifts”, vs. 11.
 - b. The word “magi” is plural, so at least 2, but as many as a dozen or more.
 - 3. The “magi” came from the east [*from the rising of the sun*].
 - a. Some suggest Arabia, Persia, Chaldea or Parthia.
 - c. Persia may be the better guess – magi flourished there.
 - 4. The magi were probably Gentiles.
 - a. Based on their question as to the “*Where ... King of the Jews*”, vs. 2.
 - b. They could have been dispersed Jews (I.e., Daniel, Jews identified in Acts 2).
 - **5. Anyone seeking Jesus is truly wise, because they are seeking the “King of kings, and Lord of lords”, Rev. 19:16.**
- B. The Mission, Matthew 2:2.
 - 1. Their mission was specific – “*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*”
 - 2. They came for the purpose of worshiping Him, Mt 2:2b.
 - 3. He was not just the “King of the Jews”, but also their king.
 - **4. There is no sacrifice too great in our search for Jesus.**
 - a. True spiritual blessings are found only in Christ, Eph. 1:3.
 - b. And the Lord rewards those who diligently [implied] seek Him, Heb. 11:6.
- C. The Method, Matthew 2:2-6.
 - 1. How did they even come to know about Jesus?
 - a. If Gentiles, they would not have known of Jesus, the king of the Jews.

- b. Perhaps they had heard from Jews (scattered all over the world).
- 2. But how did they know how to find Jesus?
 - a. *"We saw His star in the east"*, vs. 2.
 - b. Some believe the star was a natural phenomenon.
 - i. Johannes Kepler, conjunction of planets Saturn, Jupiter and Mars allowed star to be visible.
 - ii. Karl Wieseler, recorded appearance of new star.
 - iii. Halley's Comet appeared around 11 B.C.
 - c. J.W. McGarvey concluded, *"But all this put together cannot account for the visit of the magi. They were guided directly by God, and nothing else."*
- **3. To find Jesus today:**
 - a. God will help us find Him, if we are willing to search.
 - b. Must be willing to accept God's guidance. Jer. 10:23; Is. 1:18
 - c. Must be ready to follow it – at once.
 - d. Must remain humble, Jas. 4:6. Willing to ask questions, vs. vs. 2.
 - e. They still needed the Word, Mt. 2:5, 6; Jn. 5:39; Jas. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:15.
- **4. The path to follow:**
 - a. Believe, John 3:16; Mark 16:16.
 - b. Repent, Lk. 13:3, 5.
 - c. Confess, Mt. 10:32.
 - d. Be baptized, Jn. 3:3; Mt. 28:19.
 - e. Live faithfully, Rev. 2:10.

II. THEY FOUND JESUS.

- A. When they found Jesus, they rejoiced.
 - 1. Mt. 2:7-9a – south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.
 - 2. They rejoiced when they saw the star, Mt. 2:10.
 - 3. There they saw the Child with Mary, Mt. 2:11.
- B. When we find Jesus.
 - 1. When we seek in the right way, with the right attitude, God will help.
 - 2. Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8:39, *"...went on his way rejoicing."*
- **3. Rejoice *"with joy inexpressible and full of glory"* (1 Pet. 1:8).**