

The Wise Men

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." Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV)

...Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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." ...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. Matthew 7-8, 11 (NIV)

Why talk about the Christmas story weeks after December 25?

Well, we know that it was only the shepherds who appeared on the scene on the day Jesus was born.

It's likely that the guiding star appeared when Jesus was born, but it took the wise men some time to recognize that it was speaking of a Jewish King being born. Then they needed to make the journey to the capital of the Jewish nation. It may have been nearly two years before they showed up.

In several regards the wise men were *really* wise.

First they had some notion

that the star they saw appear in the sky indicated that a king of the Jews had been born. Then, they sought to come and find this new king.

Finally, they brought proper gifts to this new born king of the Jews.

Then they worshipped Him.

They also heeded the warning not to return to Jerusalem where mad King Herod was waiting to hear the location of Jesus so he could murder Him.

We respect these noble men and honour their memory as they accepted the news of a King born in Israel Who deserved homage and worship.

There is a saying that has

been in use for some time now that says, "Wise men still worship Him." How true it is!

Everyone is called on to bow the knee to Jesus and confess Him as Lord.

As the wise men worshipped the toddler Jesus so long ago, we too need to demonstrate their wisdom and recognize Him as the Christ, the long promised Saviour of the world.

Will you be as wise as the wise men and acknowledge Jesus as your King and Lord?

Wise people still acknowledge Him for *Who He is*.