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Wisemen Will Seek Him and Will Find Him

BY RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

For about 35 years I have created my own Christmas cards. A friend encouraged me back then so I took her up on it. Daring huh?



This year, my Graphics Designer friend, Pat, suggested that we go down to Wight's Home and Garden in Lynnwood to take a picture for the card. There we found a life size display of "The Three Wisemen" with their gifts for the Holy Child.

I had already written my annual Christmas poem. It emphasized the 2-year-old Jesus and the "Wise Men from the East" so that was the scene I posed by.

In years past, I wasn't aware that the wise men did not come to visit baby Jesus, but rather came to see Him when He was about age 2. We know this because when the wise men were looking for the location of Jesus' (*Yeshua's*) house, they visited King Herod the Great in Jerusalem.

"And he [Herod] sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also" (Matthew 2:8 KJV MOD.).

Unbeknown to the wise men, Herod had also been looking for this child, but not for good cause.

When the wise men found the Child Jesus, they worshipped and

gave Him gifts of: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were not birthday gifts, but gifts for a King.

The gifts had a double purpose of helping the Holy Family to escape and be cared for in a foreign land.

DIVINE DREAMS SAVE LIVES

The wise men did not go back to see Herod in Jerusalem, but went home another way as they had been warned in a dream (Matthew 2:12).

Foster father Joseph was also warned in a dream that the family must escape to Egypt, or their child would be killed. They packed immediately and left in the middle of the night (Matthew 2:13).

Herod, in a rage, realized that the wise men had ignored his request, and immediately sent out an edict that all males in Bethlehem and all the coasts, age two and under were to be slain. This horrific event is known today as "The Slaughter of the Innocents."

Some time later, a second dream came to Joseph. "But when Herod was dead, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Arise, and take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead who sought the young child's life'" (Matthew 2:20).

Herod's son was now King, and so the family did not settle in Jerusalem. Joseph being warned by God in yet another dream, settled them about 90 miles north, in the City of Nazareth in Galilee (Matthew 2:22,23).

THE RIGHTEOUS INFANT JESUS

*Jesus never had a birthday gift
That was not the Jewish way.*

*Sweetness, anointing and purity
Frankincense, myrrh and gold
Were the only gifts Jesus received
When He was but 2 years old.*

*Chosen Wisemen from the East
Followed a bright star to His home
The ultimate purpose of such treasure
Save Holy Family from tyrants of Rome.*

*Joseph took Mary and the righteous Infant
He was warned in prophetic dream
Fled to Egypt, 'til Herod's demise
"As he had planned to kill the young King."*

*How do devout Jews celebrate birthdays?
They don't give gifts to celebrate the living
Instead they remember the righteous dead
Those who had died in the faith as was given.*

*Abraham, Isaac, Jacob: Patriarchs
Memories were and are celebrated
That they had been faithful unto the Lord
In the end of their lives, made them great.*

*This Christmas let us be ever faithful
To the righteous Child who came to earth
Who made it possible for you and me
To have an everlasting second birth.*

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

Join me for the fifth 23rd Psalm Series" next time.

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