



Mo 22

Lesson 13: *The Wise Men* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- The visit of the wise men from the East tells us that Jesus was not just the forever King of Israel, but of all nations.
- God kept Jesus safe. God gave Joseph a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt as Herod was trying to kill the child. Nothing could stop God from fulfilling his promise of a Forever King.

"I Wonder"

What do you see in this picture? (3 men with camels, star etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who these men are.

I wonder where they came from and where they are going.

I wonder why the big star is in the sky.

Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary: Our story today tells us that Jesus was the Forever King, not only of Israel, but of **all** the nations of the world.

In an eastern country, far, far from Israel, there were several Wise Men or "Magi" who studied the stars in the night sky. When they saw a new and wonderful star in the sky, they understood that a special king had been born amongst the Jewish people. They travelled all the way to Jerusalem because they wanted to find and worship the newborn king of the Jews. However, when they got to Jerusalem, they met with King Herod who was very angry to hear that a new king had been born. Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, the place where the prophets had said that a special king would be born. Meanwhile, Herod secretly made a plan to kill the newborn King Jesus, as soon as possible. But God's plan was greater and could not be changed! God would protect his Son, Jesus. The wise men followed the new star to Bethlehem and found him. They fell on their knees and worshipped Jesus and gave him precious gifts. God told the wise men not to go back to King Herod. They obeyed God and went back to their own country with stories of the wonderful new King in Israel. In a dream, God told Joseph to quickly take Mary and the child and escape to Egypt so Herod could not harm them. God's promise to Abraham years ago was being fulfilled. Jesus the Forever King had been born – not just for the Israelites but for people from faraway lands and for people right here and now, for you and me. Jesus came as the Forever King for all people.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about God? (God cares for all the nations and sent his Son for everyone. God protects)

- What special sign did God put in the sky to let other people know that a King had been born? (a star) Were the wise men Israelites? (no)
- Where did the prophets of the Bible say the King would be born? (in the town of Bethlehem)
- What was King Herod like? (He was an evil king over the Jews) What was his plan? (His plan was to kill the baby who would be king, Jesus)
- What did the wise men do when they found Jesus? (worshipped him, gave gifts)
- Did Jesus come to earth to be the Forever King **ONLY** for the people of Israel? (No. The story of the wise men from the East teaches us that Jesus was to be the Forever King for all the nations of the world)
- How did God protect Jesus from Herod? (warned Joseph in a dream) Where was Joseph told to take Jesus and Mary? (escape to Egypt)

Bible Memory Verse:

"...they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." (Matthew 2:11a - KJV)