



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
CHRISTMAS



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The Magi's Story: Something Better Than Religion

Matthew 2:1-12



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MATTHEW 2

¹ AFTER JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM IN JUDEA, DURING THE TIME OF KING HEROD, MAGI FROM THE EAST CAME TO JERUSALEM

² AND ASKED, “WHERE IS THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN KING OF THE JEWS? WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.”

³ WHEN KING HEROD HEARD THIS HE WAS DISTURBED, AND ALL JERUSALEM WITH HIM.

⁴ WHEN HE HAD CALLED TOGETHER ALL THE PEOPLE’S CHIEF PRIESTS AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW, HE ASKED THEM WHERE THE CHRIST WAS TO BE BORN.



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MATTHEW 2

⁵ “IN BETHLEHEM IN JUDEA,” THEY REPLIED, “FOR THIS IS WHAT THE PROPHET HAS WRITTEN:

⁶ ““BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM, IN THE LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE RULERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU WILL COME A RULER WHO WILL BE THE SHEPHERD OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.””

⁷ THEN HEROD CALLED THE MAGI SECRETLY AND FOUND OUT FROM THEM THE EXACT TIME THE STAR HAD APPEARED.

⁸ HE SENT THEM TO BETHLEHEM AND SAID, “GO AND MAKE A CAREFUL SEARCH FOR THE CHILD. AS SOON AS YOU FIND HIM, REPORT TO ME, SO THAT I TOO MAY GO AND WORSHIP HIM.”



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MATTHEW 2

⁹ AFTER THEY HAD HEARD THE KING, THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY, AND THE STAR THEY HAD SEEN IN THE EAST WENT AHEAD OF THEM UNTIL IT STOPPED OVER THE PLACE WHERE THE CHILD WAS.

¹⁰ WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY WERE OVERJOYED.

¹¹ 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 AND OF INCENSE AND OF MYRRH.

¹² AND HAVING BEEN WARNED IN A DREAM NOT TO GO BACK TO HEROD, THEY RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRY BY ANOTHER ROUTE.





1. God reveals himself to those who seek him.



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MATTHEW 2:1-2

IN THE TIME OF KING HEROD, AFTER JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA, WISE MEN FROM THE EAST CAME TO JERUSALEM, ASKING, “WHERE IS THE CHILD WHO HAS BEEN BORN KING OF THE JEWS? FOR WE OBSERVED HIS STAR AT ITS RISING, AND HAVE COME TO PAY HIM HOMAGE.”



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JEREMIAH 29:13

...WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR ME, YOU FIND ME; IF YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.



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2. God speaks to those
who will listen.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
CHRISTMAS

MATTHEW 2:12

AND HAVING BEEN WARNED IN A DREAM NOT TO RETURN TO HEROD, THEY LEFT FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRY BY ANOTHER ROAD.



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- God speaks to us through the Bible.



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PSALM 119:105

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO
MY PATH.



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- God speaks to us through the Bible.
- God speaks to us through the preaching and teaching of his Word.
- God speaks to us through many other sources.



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CHRISTMAS

3. God leads those who will follow.



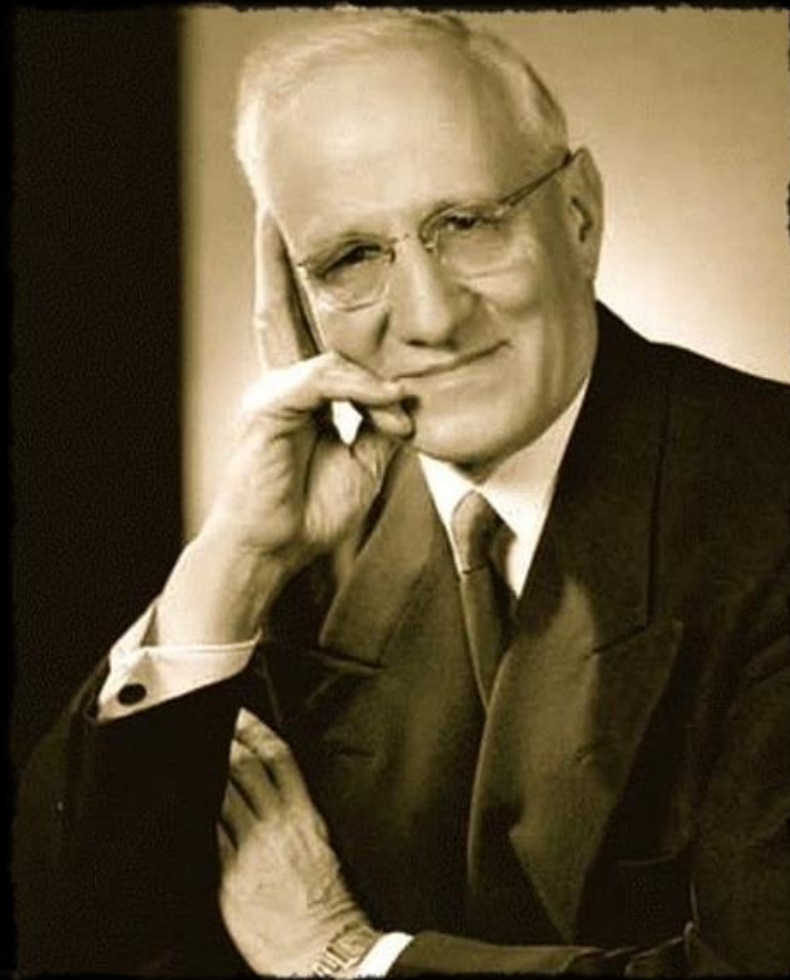
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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MATTHEW 2:9-10

...THEY SET OUT; AND THERE, AHEAD OF THEM, WENT THE STAR THAT THEY HAD SEEN AT ITS RISING, UNTIL IT STOPPED OVER THE PLACE WHERE THE CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THAT THE STAR HAD STOPPED, THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH JOY. ON ENTERING THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER; AND THEY KNELT DOWN AND PAID HIM HOMAGE.



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E. Stanley Jones

- God reveals himself to those who seek him.
- God speaks to those who listen.
- God leads those who will follow.



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So What

Are you seeking?

Are you listening?

Are you following?



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