

Reveal
1.1.17
Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12 New Living Translation (NLT)

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

The Word of God for the People of God.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

Reveal

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Story about Home Renovation

Whatever the reason, the REveal represents something great. Something exciting. Something new. A promise of better things. A better life.

In our scripture this morning, It's like we have "the BiG Reveal."

Oh, you may think, we had the big reveal on Christmas Eve, in the manger in Bethlehem.

God was revealed as Emmanuel.

Jesus was born, the *Savior of the World. The King of the Jews. the Messiah. The Christ. God with us.*

Rev. Dawn Chesser suggests that: "Epiphany Sunday (is) the climactic moment of this season (Advent - Christmas - Epiphany)." "Because the reveal in this high holy season is **not** the birth of Jesus." But rather, "It is the confirmation of his true identity." (Dawn Chesser, Discipleship Ministries)

When the Wisemen - Magi - visit Him, their actions REVEAL Who He is. They travelled from another country. They had studied the scriptures of old. They knew the prophecies of the coming messiah. They knew someone Great was to be born. The star enlightened them and summoned them.

They acted on this information and brought a caravan filled with gifts for the newborn king. Along the way, they stopped in Jerusalem, the logical place to find the King, or at least, ask for further directions.

Puzzled by their inquiry, King Herod sought his counselors for wisdom. Sure enough, the prophecies revealed the location of the newborn Messiah: Bethlehem.

Being threatened by another King, especially in the Davidic line, Herod tried to trick the wise men to return with detailed information.

They continued on their journey, which took them to Bethlehem. Eventually, they found the house where the child was.

They worshiped Him, and brought Him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

By their actions, they REVEALED Who He was. A king. Deity. Someone who was going to die.

Epiphany is about REVEALING Who God is in Jesus. It is about a REVELATION that leads to TRANSFORMATION.

IWW have you experienced the Big Reveal of Who Jesus is in your life?

IWW can we help those from other belief systems to experience a reveal about who Jesus desires to be?

IWW can we reveal Jesus to those seeking enlightenment and revelation in a style and language they understand, and show respect for a different belief system?

IWW can we point others to the presence and power of Christ in the world?

What is the good news for us today?

Here's the good news:

In this simple, humble visit, Jesus was REVEALED as the Lord, the Savior, the Messiah. The Hope of the World. Even to those outside the Christian faith, Jesus is revealed as Lord. Leaders from around the world recognize Him as King of the Jews, but also as a Divine Presence in the world. All creation must bow down to Him. Even those with worldly power fear Him.

How will we respond to the good news that Jesus is Lord and King?

What will we start, stop or do differently because He is being Revealed as our Lord?

IWW have you had a Revelation of Who Jesus is in your life?

May our eyes be opened to Who God is, and What God desires for us in this new year.