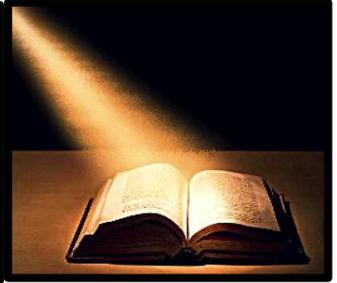




FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon
Sabbath, December 15, 2018

GOD WITH US #3 WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

**I MUST NOT BE FOOLISH AND WAIT TOO LONG,
TO RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS & SALVATION'S SONG;
A TIME WILL COME WHEN THE LIGHT GROWS DIM,
SO BE A WISE MAN, COME SEARCH, AND FIND HIM!**

GROUP SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

1. INTRODUCTION: Many in Israel were watching and waiting for the Messiah, the LORD Jesus to be born. The wise men from the East who came searching for the Messiah were most likely Jewish Holy men, who still lived in Babylon. How would they know when they had found the true Messiah? How would the Jews know when the Messiah was born? Why do some find Him while others do not? God loves His people with an everlasting love! When Jesus comes again to receive His own up to heaven, will you be waiting to rise up to greet Him?

ORDER OF SERVICE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Babies only go into the Nursery today. | |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

Bring supplies for Gospel Craft: SAVED & SAFE IN JESUS

2. GOD SPOKE THRU the PROPHETS THAT the CHRIST WOULD BE BORN TO A VIRGIN IN BETHLEHEM, SO THE WISE MEN KNEW WHERE THEY WERE GOING!

Micah 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

God Himself would give the sign that a virgin (a young unmarried girl) would conceive a child, and the child’s mother would call His name Emanuel, meaning God with us.

Isaiah 7:14 “The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”



Isaiah said the Savior would come with the sign of a pillar of light which the Jews understood to be like the pillar of fire, or Angel of the Lord, who had guided their way to deliverance.



Ephesians 1:10 “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.”

Zechariah 12:8 “In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.”

Matthew 2:1-4 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ²saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.”

3. BABY JESUS FULFILLED MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

Isaiah 53:5-12 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth...¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

There can be no denial that the scriptures of Isaiah, specifically state that the Messiah was born as both son and servant, who as God, would sacrifice Himself to take away the sins of Israel.



Isaiah 9:6-7 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

Jesus, was the child who was born from the branch of David’s line! His name is not called “the Son of God” with us, but the scriptures call Jesus: ‘God with Us’, and ‘The Everlasting Father’.

4. THE MESSIAH CAME AS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, OF THE WORLD, JUST AS SCRIPTURES FORETOLD.

Isaiah 9:2 *“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”*

The ‘Great Light’ would come to bring light to those who were spiritually dead and dwelling in darkness. God’s people were looking for the light of the Messiah who was to come to redeem them. The gospel of John begins with references to the light which is the Shekinah glory of God.

John 1:1-5 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”*

The ceremony associated with the Feast of Tabernacles involves the lighting of lights in the temporary tent-like dwelling that reenacts the coming of the Shekinah glory of God in the Tabernacle of the wilderness, as also lighting the lamps shows the coming of the Messiah to bring light to the world; Jesus is the light who fills our house and our hearts!



1 Kings 8:10-11 *“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.”*

When we receive the Light of the World, He comes into our hearts, and changes us from glory to glory, as He ministers through us, to those we have opportunity to tell about His love every day!

5. THE WISE MEN OF ISRAEL WERE SEEKING THE MESSIAH WHO WAS TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM, HE WHO WAS GOD HIMSELF, CAME AS SAVIOR.

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **GOD** was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”



Luke 2:25-26 “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel**: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.”

Simeon waited for the Messiah who would bring consolation for Israel, and who also was the Ancient of Days.

Micah 5:2 “But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet **out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**”

So in the fullness of time God came to dwell with men in an earthly Tabernacle that was not made with hands, and He shall come again to raise His people up to Tabernacle with Him.

Luke 2:11-14 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² **And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.** ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a



multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**”

And that is just how they found the true Messiah – GOD in this tiny baby, is the Savior whom the wise men came to seek!

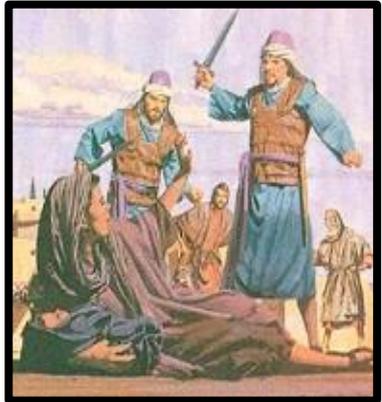
6. HEROD ASKED THE WISE MEN WHEN THE STAR FIRST APPEARED, BECAUSE HE PLANNED TO ORDER ALL JEWISH BABY BOYS THAT AGE, TO BE KILLED.

Matthew 2:7-8 “Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.”

The baby prophesied to born as King of the Jews, was so feared by Herod, that he had all male babies killed who were born from before the time that the wise men first began to follow the star from the east, until they arrived to find the newborn king of Israel!

Jeremiah 31:15 “*Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.*”

The soldiers of Herod searched for and killed all the boy babies who were born up to 2 years before baby Jesus was born, and their poor mothers could not be comforted.



Matthew 2:16-18 “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ¹⁸ In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.”

The baby who was born as King of Israel, the only Savior and LORD of Heaven, grew up to renew His covenant with Israel, then He redeemed His people by shedding His own blood on the cross.

7. THE JEWS ALL KNEW THAT THE ONLY WAY A CHILD COULD BE CALLED “MIGHTY GOD” AND “EVERLASTING FATHER” IS IF THAT CHILD WERE THE SPIRIT WHO IS GOD HIMSELF – THE BRANCH OF DAVID, WHO EMBODIED THE GLORY OF GOD.

Zechariah 6:12-13 “*And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: ¹³Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”*

Isaiah 7:14 “*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

The New Testament shows that holy wise men of Israel, were waiting for the Christ to be born! Simeon was a prophet of Israel who believed Old Testament prophecies regarding the coming of the deliverer to redeem Israel. Simeon knew that a virgin



(*an unmarried young girl in Israel who of course would be a virgin*), was to become pregnant with God’s Son. **A married woman would not be called a young girl nor a virgin**, and Joseph did not know Mary as his wife until Jesus was born, so Mary was the virgin. Do you remember Mary’s amazement?

Luke 1:46-49 “*And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. ⁴⁸ For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.”*

8. THE GLORY OF GOD'S PRESENCE IS THE PILLAR OF LIGHT WHO LED THEM IN THE DESERT, WHO ALSO LED THE WISE MEN BY HIS STAR TO FIND HIM IN BETHLEHEM, WHO LEADS US TO FIND HIM STILL.

The same Shekinah glory of God that guided Moses in the wilderness, guided the wise men to the Messiah called Christ.

Numbers 14:10b; 13-14 “...And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel...¹⁴ and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.”



Zechariah 12:8 “In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.”

God had come as a pillar of fire to lead His people in the wilderness, and He came again to lead His people to find Him in the manger. The ruler was to rise up out of Israel (Jacob) **like the pillar of fire that Israel understood as “a star”** in the wilderness.

Numbers 24:17 “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel....”

*Isaiah 9:2 “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” **AND JESUS SHINES IN YOU!***

9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. The wise men who came to Bethlehem were more than likely Holy men of Israel who were still living in Babylon of the East.
2. These wise men knew they were following the star of God to Bethlehem, because they knew the scriptures.
3. The Holy men of Israel, including the wise men, and Simeon and Anna, knew that the Messiah was the Ancient of Days.
4. Mary and Joseph and the Holy men of Israel were looking for a Savior who was God, the Everlasting Father, with us!
5. Jesus was born from the physical lineage of David, not a direct descendant but from a Branch of David's line.
6. The Branch bearing God's glory could only be God Himself.
7. God's seed was embodied in Judah (Jews) whom He calls His sanctuary, and His person is embodied in His Son Jesus Christ!
8. Jewish King Herod killed all male Jewish babies **because he knew from the scriptures** that the King of the Jews was born.
9. Jesus was born to an unmarried young girl, a virgin, and He was found wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger in Bethlehem just as Messianic scriptures prophesied.
10. The Glory of Gods presence led His people in a pillar of light in the wilderness, the same light of His Star led the wise men to Bethlehem, and the same light of His presence shines in you!

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

Dear Father God, our Lord Jesus, We come to you with thankful hearts for your pure words written for us through these Holy men of old in the Holy Bible. Thank you for your promise to preserve your word for us forever, so we know that we can trust in your word with confidence, and not be shaken by any false word in the world today. Thank you for becoming a man so you could show us your love and save us! We are so thankful that you call us your children. We worship you today, and we love you with all our heart, in Jesus' name, Amen.



10. CHILDREN'S STORY: SAMMY SAFE & SAVED

Sammy's mother had told him stories about Jesus ever since he was little but Sammy always told her that he was too busy playing to think about Jesus. Mom said if Sammy kept being too busy for Jesus one day it may be too late, and gave him a Bible verse to think about: *Isaiah 55:6* "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

"Don't put off receiving Jesus until it is too late, Sammy," Mom said, and told about a man lost in the snow who began to be tired and sleepy. He didn't know that when your body gets too cold it wants to go to sleep. The man thought he would wake up later to go find help, but while he slept he froze to death, and it was too late! Sammy's mother said, "If you are ever lost in the snow, stay awake and keep moving to stay warm until help arrives!"

One snowy Christmas Day, Sammy was having so much fun playing with his new sled that he wandered off into the woods. Darkness fell and he was lost! Sammy started to feel very sleepy and he remembered the man who fell asleep in the snow, and he thought about Jesus. Sammy didn't want it to be too late to receive Jesus!



"Dear Jesus," prayed Sammy, *"Will you please forgive me for my sins and come into my heart right now?"* Something wonderful happened, Sammy felt the presence of the Lord and he was so happy, but still very cold...and sleepy. Sammy's mom and dad were looking for him and they prayed that Jesus would keep Sammy safe. Sammy got the idea to go up to the top of the hill to see what he could see, and he started doing jumping jacks to keep warm! **Just then his parents looked up and saw something jumping up and down in the moonlight!** Sammy was so happy that he was safe, and he couldn't wait to tell his mom that he was

SAVED & SAFE IN JESUS!

10. GOSPEL CRAFT: SAVED & SAFE CANDY SLED

FOR EACH SLED YOU WILL NEED:

- White Glue & Chocolate Frosting for gluing.
- 2 candy canes larger than the candy bar.
- 1 Kit Kat candy bar for floor of sled.
- 7 Hershey mini bars.
- 1 Chocolate Covered Graham Cracker
- 1 Teddy Graham Cracker for the top.
- Extra candies and cookies for eating!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place 2 stripes of white glue on bottom side of Kit Kat bar.
2. Carefully place Kit Kat Bar on top of the 2 candy canes as shown.
3. Put 4 stripes of glue on top of Kit Kat bar.
4. Place 4 mini Hershey bars on the 4 stripes of glue.
5. Glue 3 more mini bars on top as shown.
6. Put dab of chocolate frosting to secure Chocolate Covered Graham Cracker.
7. Put dab of chocolate frosting to hold Teddy Graham on top.
8. Cut out word strips and glue 1 to each side of sled.



SAVED and SAFE IN JESUS

Jeremiah 29:13 “*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*”

Jesus

Wise Men Still Seek Him

