

Christmas Message 2017 His Star

Last week, we considered Light and darkness

Physical

Light: that which makes thing visible, an energy (waves)

Darkness: the absence of light (not a thing, the absence of a thing...nothing)

Spiritual

Light: nature of God, eternal Life, a way of living (belief)

Darkness: the nature of Self/world/devil (evil, wickedness), eternal death,
a way of living (unbelief)

Luke 11:35 **Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.**

In that study of Light and darkness, I did not speak of one very important verse in Scripture

Ps 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Lamp (“candle”) unto my feet:

My feet are in my current location

Right here and now living in this world, my feet are in darkness

The sighted in darkness need light, provided by a lamp

e.g. I walked in the darkness to make coffee...right into
boxes of Christmas decorations

As a stranger and a pilgrim in this world, the Word of God
provides the illumination for my feet so I can stay out of
trouble/harm in the darkness

Light (“luminary”, light from a heavenly body) unto my path:

My path is where I am going

Where am I going?

Eternity

What luminary/heavenly body will light my path?

The answer in is “the Christmas Story” in Matt 2

Matt 2

v1-2 there came wise men from the east...King...worship him:

After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem wise men from the east came to Jerusalem

- looking for the King of the Jews, the Messiah
- guided/led by “His star”
- so they could worship him

The wise men come on a dangerous journey from

- the East
- the homeland of Abraham
- the heart of Babylonian and Medo-Persian Empires
- the place of the Jewish captivity
- the region under the administration of Daniel, the beloved prophet

They followed “His star”...the star of the King of the Jews

When could they see and follow “His star”?

At night...in the darkness

Ps 119:105 lamp/torch unto my feet: their current location was where Daniel’s feet where 575 years earlier, in Babylon

Possible fruit of Daniel’s ministry, students of the Word of God (only way could be “wise”)

light unto my path: where they are going...Jerusalem
Light from a heavenly body to guide them on the right path

Why did they go to Jerusalem?

- It is the center of the Jewish world
- It is where one might expect to find the King of the Jews
- “His star” led them there

v3 Herod...was troubled and all Jerusalem:

Herod was wicked, evil...

the light in him

- his worldview
- his guiding truth

was darkness

These visitors stirred the darkness of his wicked heart...

that darkness translated into trouble for the people

v4-6 chief priest and scribes...where Christ should be born:

Herod gathered the chief priests and the scribes, demanding to know how the Jewish holy books could shed light on the birthplace of the Messiah... so he would know where to look for this challenger to his throne

And the location of the Son of David (2 Sam 7) was Scripturally evident, plain to see: Bethlehem, David's hometown (Micah 5:2)
From Bethlehem would come the Shepherd King of God's flock

v7-8 privily called the wise men:

Armed with the light of Scripture, Herod secretly calls for the wise men and asks them the exact time the star appeared to them

Their answer (not recorded here but in Herod's subsequent order in v16):
"2 years ago."

Herod then answers their question (v2a) and sends them to Bethlehem, piously instructing them to

- make a thorough search for
 - the Messiah
 - young child vs babe (Luke 2:12)
 - report details about this King back to him
- so he can likewise worship the Messiah, the King of the Jews

The light in Herod being darkness, he had no intention to worship the young child but had every intention to kill him (the way of darkness)

v9-10 the star...went before them:

Implied is a reappearance of the star that

- appeared to them in the east
- guided them to Jerusalem
- disappeared while they were in Jerusalem
- now has reappeared to guide them onward to Bethlehem

The wise men rejoiced to see His star again

The star guides them to Bethlehem, perhaps to the very house where Jesus was living...a 2 year old toddler

v11 come into the house...worshipped...gifts:

Was Jesus born in a house?

No, there was no room for Him anywhere in town, He was born in a cave

Did the wise men visit Jesus in a cave?

No, in a house

Jesus was not a “babe” when the wise men visited Him, He was a “young child”,
a 2-year old toddler

Would the wise men come to the City of David to see the King of the Jews...
and worship Him if they believed he was a mere man?

What does Scripture, the lamp unto their feet, say about worship?

God alone is to be worshipped

What did the Word of God, the light unto their path, tell them Who Jesus is?

God with us

Is 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

God Incarnate

Is 9:6 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.

Matt 1:23

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith,
Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body
hast thou prepared Me.

What is the significance of their gifts?

- All valuable/costly
- Gold – for a King...Ps 2
- Frankincense – for a Priest...Gen 14
- Myrrh – for a Prophet (used in burials)...Deut 18

How did they know Jesus is/would be?

How does anyone know the Identity of Jesus Christ?

By revelation – the Word and the Spirit

What is the nature of a star that appeared, guided, disappeared, reappeared, guided again...natural or supernatural?

- Supernatural
 - instrument of Divine guidance – Light
 - seen and unseen
 - appeared, disappeared, and reappeared
 - fulfillment of Messianic prophecy
- Num 24:17 there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre (King) shall rise out of Israel

Here we are, over 2000 years later celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior
As was true then, so it is true today

Ps 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Lamp (“candle”) unto my feet:

Our feet are in our current location
Right here and now living in this world, our feet are in darkness

The sighted in darkness need light, proved by a lamp

Prov 6:23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

As strangers and pilgrims in this world, the Word of God provides the illumination for our feet so we can stay out of trouble/harm in the darkness

Light (“luminary”, light from a heavenly body) unto my path:
Our path is where we are going

Where are we going?

Eternity

What luminary/heavenly body will light our path?

“His star”

The Star of Jacob (Num 24:17)

The Morning Star (Rev 22:16)

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, will light our path,
the narrow path that leads to eternal life

The Testimony of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of prophesy (Rev 19:10), is the Light unto our path – home, a better, heavenly country and a city whose Builder and Maker is God (Heb 11:10, 16)

Needed: spiritual discernment/sight

False light (darkness) will lead us astray on the wide path that leads to destruction

- false doctrine and false teachers
2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist
- our opinions...our own counsel vs the entire counsel of God
- man's traditions, philosophies, religions
- self-illumination
- Self as our final authority

Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork

What do astronomers call city lights?

Light pollution

Which is more inspiring, more awesome:

- A. View of earth at night from space (man-made lights...until generators fail)
- B. View of space from the Hubble Telescope

According to The Word of God, the lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path...

Ps 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Luke 11:35 **Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.**

If your

- worldview is not God's (The Word)
 - guiding truth is not named Jesus Christ
- the light that is in you is darkness

“His star” is a timely and urgent reminder to

- look to
- follow

The True Light all the days of your life...starting right now!