

St. Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

January 2, 2022

Psalm 72: 1-17

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

⁶ **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon be no more.

⁸ **May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth!**

⁹ May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

¹¹ **May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ **He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

¹⁵ Long may he live,
may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all the day!

**¹⁶May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may they blossom forth in the cities
like the grass of the field!
¹⁷May his name endure for ever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people bless themselves by him,
all nations call him blessed!**

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the LORD will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.
³The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴“Lift up your eyes all around, and see:
They all gather together, they come to you;
Your sons shall come from afar,
And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side.
⁵Then you shall see and become radiant,
And your heart shall swell with joy;
Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.
⁶The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*,
The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
All those from Sheba shall come;
They shall bring gold and incense,
And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

¹To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:
²A time to be born, And a time to die;
A time to plant, And a time to pluck *what is* planted;
³A time to kill, And a time to heal;
A time to break down, And a time to build up;
⁴A time to weep, And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
⁵A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶A time to gain, And a time to lose;
A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
⁷A time to tear, And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
⁸A time to love, And a time to hate;
A time of war, And a time of peace.
⁹What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? ¹⁰I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
¹²I know that nothing *is* better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it *is* the gift of God.