WISE MEN STILL WORSHIP HIM

After the birth of Jesus we read about the visit of wise men from the East as found in Matthew 2. They came to celebrate His birth and we are still celebrating it today.

These wise men came from the East. This likely means they came from the region of Mesopotamia, which literally means "*between the rivers*," referring to the land area between the Euphrates River and the Tigris River. This corresponds to the land of modern-day Iraq.

This means these wise men were all Gentiles. They were a foreign people from a foreign land with a foreign culture. And yet here they were with a vested interest in Jesus. Note that Jesus is for everyone! Jesus was born a Jew – He is the Jewish Messiah, but He came to be the Savior of the world.

When the angel announced the birth of Christ he said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." (Lk. 2:10). The message is for "all people".

These wise men looking for the "King of the Jews" with the express purpose of WORSHIPPING Him!

Matthew 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 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."

In the story of the wise men in Matthew 2:1-12 the issue of WORSHIP is brought up three times (Mt. 2:2, 8, 11). This was the objective: To WORSHIP the newborn King of Israel.

This was no normal child. These wise men recognized that He was worthy to be worshiped. To worship means to bow down before. To bow down before One who is superior. In the Bible, ONLY God is to be worshiped!

In Matthew 1 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him what the name of the Christ child should be.

Matthew 1:21–23 (NKJV)

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name <u>Jesus</u>, for <u>He will save His people from their sins."</u>

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**," which is translated, "**God with us."**

The name "<u>Jesus</u>" means <u>Savior</u> and the name <u>"Immanuel"</u> means "<u>God</u> <u>with us</u>". This is Who Jesus is. He is God and He is Savior. Jesus is the God-Man Who came to save us from our sins.

His life as the God-Man was <u>so valuable</u> that God counted His death as a worthy sacrifice for the sins of the entire world.

As the God-Savior He is worthy to be worshiped!

Matthew 2:11 (NKJV)

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.

To be a true believer is to be a true worshiper. This is what God is looking for. In John 4:23-24 Jesus said that God the Father is seeking true worshipers. Are you among them?

Wise men still seek Him – and they still WORSHIP!