


Seeking Hope and Light in 2019




True, False, or Who Knows?

1. The wise men who came to visit Jesus were kings from the East.
 2. There were three of them.
 3. They arrived to see Jesus on December 25th.
 4. They arrived at the stable and got to hang out with the shepherds.
 5. They brought appropriate gifts to give to Jesus.
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- The background of the slide features a starry night sky with a gradient from dark blue on the left to a warm orange and red glow on the right. In the lower right corner, the silhouettes of three wise men riding camels are visible against the glowing horizon, suggesting a journey towards the East.

Matthew 2:1-11

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.”

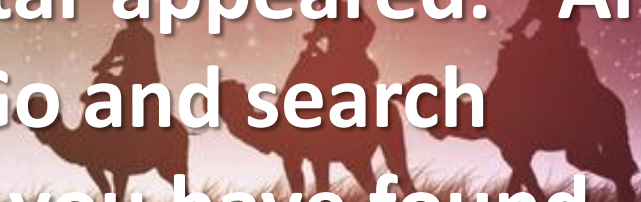
³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

The background of the text is a dark, starry night sky with a gradient from blue to purple. In the lower right corner, there are silhouettes of three wise men riding camels, looking towards the left. The overall scene is illuminated by a bright star in the upper left, creating a lens flare effect.

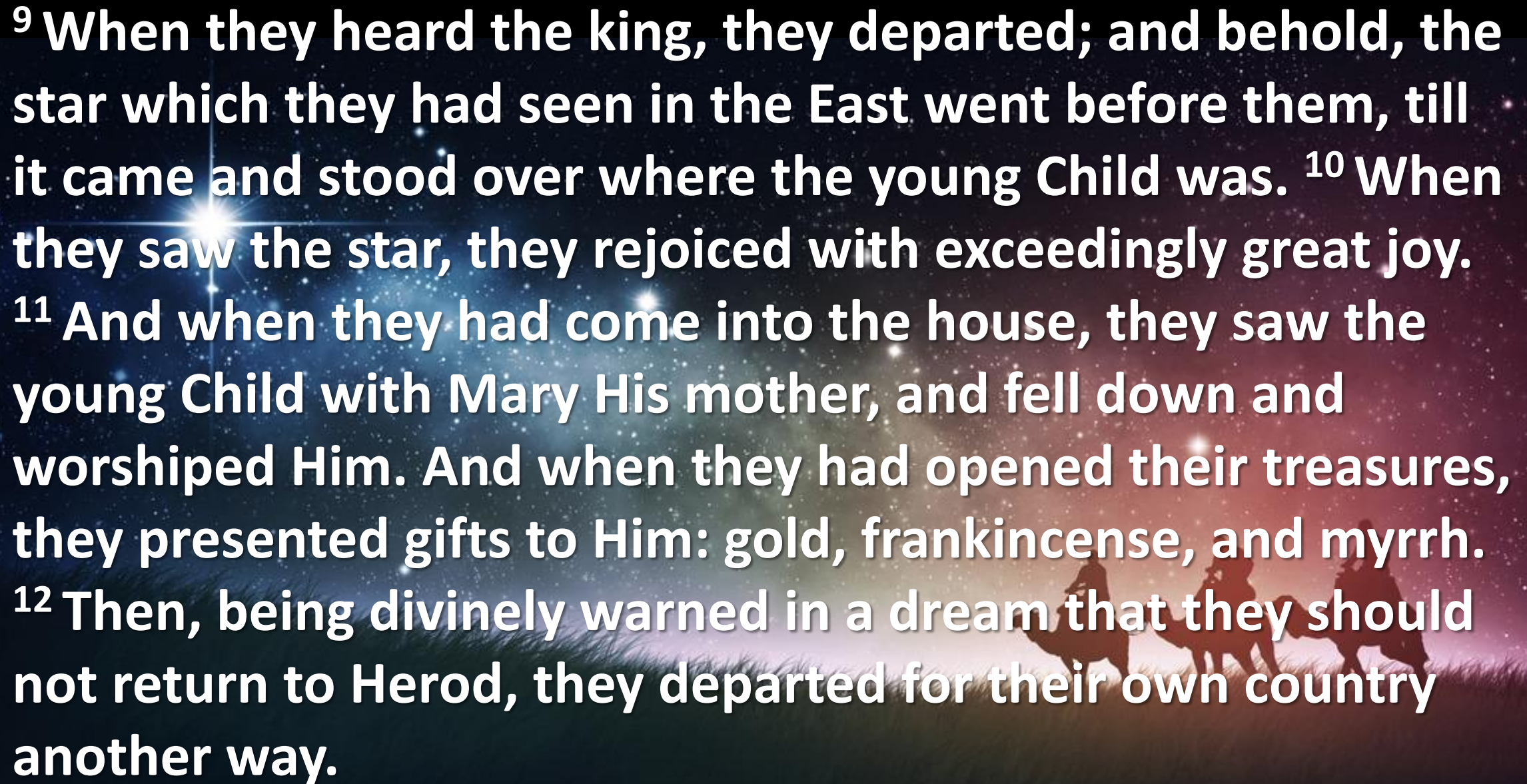
5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

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.”

The background of the text is a dark, starry night sky with a gradient from blue to purple. In the lower right, there are silhouettes of three wise men riding camels across a field of grass, looking towards the left. A bright star is visible in the sky above them.

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.

The background of the text is a dark, starry night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star is visible on the left side, casting a lens flare. In the lower right portion of the image, there are silhouettes of three camels and their riders, representing the Three Kings, against a lighter, hazy horizon. The overall color palette is a mix of deep blues, purples, and oranges.

What is there about this story that is either strange or interesting?

1. There are two very different kings of the Jews.
2. Why astrologers? (Astrology is bad, right?)
3. What about that star?
4. Why were foreigners looking for a Jewish King?
5. What inappropriate gifts for a baby!

Following Your Star in 2019

1. Base your hope in Christ, not self.



Following Your Star in 2019

1. Base your hope in Christ, not self.
2. Avoid hope based on self interest.



Following Your Star in 2019

- 1. Base your hope in Christ, not self.**
- 2. Avoid hope based on self interest.**
- 3. Be prepared to take courageous action.**

