



SERMON OF THE WEEK



PREACH JESUS!

He is the Reason for Every Season

“The Precarious Presentation!”

Matthew 2:1-12 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

Precarious meaning *uncertain, insecure, chancy, and even dangerous.*

This presentation:

- † They were willing make
- † Was to show their reverence and love for the Lord
- ☛ Was not without opposition

Yet, there are a least five things you need understand about this Presentation....

THIS PRECARIOUS PRESENTATION WAS:

1. A PERSONAL CHOICE - Matthew 2:1-2 NKJV

- The Wise Men (not “three”):
 - *Gospel of Matthew* is the only one of the four gospels to mention the Magi.
 - They came “from the east” to worship “the king of the Jews.”
- The Gospels never mentions the number of Magi.
 - Most **western Christian denominations** have traditionally assumed them to have been three in number, based on the statement that they brought three gifts.
 - In **Eastern Christianity**, especially the *Syriac churches*, the Magi often numbered twelve. Their identification as kings in later Christian writings is probably linked to *Isaiah 60:1–6*, which refers to “kings [coming] to the brightness of your dawn” bearing “gold and frankincense.”
 - Further identification of the magi with kings may be due to Psalm 72:11, “May all kings fall down before him.”

† **These Wise Men/Kings**

- **made a personal choice to seek out Jesus (newborn king)**
- **and offer Him their gifts, based on what was made known to them!**
- Anytime you make up your mind to present to the Lord your gifts — Who you ARE!
Be sure it will be *precarious* because you WILL BE met with Opposition!!!
- How about YOU? What has been your choice based on what He has made known to You?

† **The CHOICE is intended to give you a reason to Preach Jesus!!!**

2. A PERTURBING CONSIDERATION - Matthew 2:3-6 NKJV

- Micah 5:2-3 NKJV
- Whenever you bring up the subject of Jesus, it will cause some to be “troubled” by who He is. How has the Gospel News of Jesus affected you?
- And what are YOU doing about it?

† **This CONSIDERATION is intended to motivate you to find out about Jesus...**
So you can **PREACH JESUS!!!**

3. CREATED A PRIVATE COLLUSION – Matthew 2:7-8 NKJV

Collusion - means to operate in secret or to cause a conspiracy.

- ☛ The Enemy is always busy trying to hinder news about Jesus and to Keep Jesus from manifesting His glory in Your Life!

† **This kind of COLLUSION is key in reminding us why we should Preach Jesus!!!**

4. HAS A PRESCRIBED COURSE - Matthew 2:9-10 NKJV

The star commonly referred to as the “star of Bethlehem” is an old prophecy found in the book of Numbers—a prophecy that was traditionally labeled as “The Star of Jacob.”

Numbers 24:17 NKJV

The “Balaam cycle” (Numbers 22–24):

Strangely, Balaam recognizes Yahweh as his own God (Numbers 22:18). Therefore, instead of cursing the Hebrews, Balaam begins to bless them.

The most striking feature of the whole section on Balaam...

The God of Israel resorts to a non-Hebrew prophet to convey His will to the Hebrew tribes wandering through the Plains of Moab, specifically regarding their future vis-à-vis other nations.

Moreover, God chooses a non-Hebrew prophet to deliver a prophecy pertaining to the time and circumstances of the Messiah’s birth.

Balaam’s prophecy contains three key words.

- **First**, the prophet speaks of a “**STAR**” (Hebrew: *kokab*) emerging from Jacob. The “star” in ancient Near East was used to designate a god or a deified king. The focus of this prophecy seemingly falls on a descendant of Jacob who would have divine qualities. The verb used here to describe the star’s movement is (Hebrew: *darak*) - “to tread, to walk, to travel.” This matches quite neatly with the place of Balaam’s prophecy, namely, the eastern side of the Jordan River.
- **Second**, Balaam mentions a “**SCEPTER.**” – Genesis 49:10 NKJV
“**Scepter**” (Hebrew: *shebet*) - *a scepter is rising from Israel.* Scepters commonly signifies royal authority, as in Genesis 49:10.
- **Third, JACOB**
Balaam emphasizes that both star and scepter, or god and king emerge from a human agent, specifically the patriarch **Jacob** (also called Israel). Thus, the one prophesied by Balaam will be at the same time **God — King and Man.**
- In the context of our gospel account, this prophecy speaks of the Messiah and his triune-faceted profile.
- **The PRESCRIBED COURSE is intended to verify who Jesus is, so there would no excuse Not to PREACH JESUS!!!**

5. A PLANNED CONFIRMATION - Matthew 2:11-12 NKJV

- Traditional nativity scenes depict three “Wise Men” visiting the infant Jesus on the night of his birth, in a manger accompanied by the shepherds and angels...
- “Artistic preference” for convenience’s sake.
- The single biblical account in Matthew 2 simply presents an event at an unspecified point after Christ's birth in which an *unnumbered* party of *unnamed* “wise men/kings” (μάγοι, *mágoi*) **visits him in a house** (οἰκίαν, *oikian*), **not a stable**.

- **They presented Gifts to The Gift!!!**

These gifts were given in fulfillment of the prophesy in **Isaiah 60:6**, which mentions the gifts.

Those “wise men/kings” who came to confirm who he was were more than three.

- **Matthew 2:11 NKJV**

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Each gift was confirming who Jesus was and what he would do:

Gold - indicated that He would be a King.

Frankincense - that He would be God.

Myrrh - that He would die, emphasizing His humanity.

† This **PRECARIOUS PRESENTATION**
with its **Personal Choice**,
its **Perturbing Consideration**,
its **Private Collusion**,
its **Prescribed Course**,
its **Planned Confirmation**,
is intended to remind us that no matter what - we are to **PREACH JESUS!!!**

CONCLUSION