

Luke 10:39 KJV "She had a sister named Mary which also sat at Jesus feet and heard His word."

NEWSLETTER: "MOMENTS WITH MARY"

Published Bi-Monthly by Mary Mayko FCA/TBC 1105 T High St. Burlington NJ 08016

Phone: 609-386-4533 Email: mmako1968@msn.com Website: www.momentwithmary.org

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"A ROYAL VISIT!"

Micah 5:2 NIV "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times."

Matt. 2:1-2 NIV "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, the Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Royalty visits Royalty! In the Book of Matthew we see the expression "King of the Jews" for the very first time! We are not really sure if the Magi were kings or not, but we know they were important men to have an audience with King Herod. We sing the Christmas Carol every year, "We Three Kings" with excitement and many people have just assumed they were kings. Whoever they were is not the main point. The fact they came seeking Jesus proves they were very Wise Men indeed!

Since these men studied the stars, some say they were astrologers or pagan priests from the Media-Persian area which is the Iraq-Iran countries today. These men had access to Old Testament Scriptures. Some may have been descendants of the Jews taken to Babylon when Judea was defeated Nebuchadnezzar [609-586 BC] It is an interesting fact that the Star was still directing them two years after they had first seen it! If the Star first appeared when Jesus was born, this reveals it as a Divine Sign and not just a natural phenomenon, as many writers try to explain away the importance of the Star! [Num.24:17]

Since Jesus was about two years old by the time they arrived, it seems they must have come from a long distance. Mary and Joseph were not longer in the stable where Jesus was born, but living in a house in Bethlehem. Most likely, Joseph would have been working as a carpenter by that time to support them. Mary would still be nursing her Child. [Matt.2:9-12]

These Wise men would have traveled with a large caravan since they carried expensive gifts for the new King of the Jews. Some say the Three Wise men came from three different countries and represent the Gentiles of the whole World who accepted the Christ Child as true Royalty. We don't have proof of this, but it seems

these three men were more than willing to accept this Child as Royalty and give gifts befitting a King to him. Isn't it interesting that although Jesus was still a baby, they still honored Him this way!

Whoever they were and wherever they came from, they were certainly learned men, wealthy and influential. When they met with King Herod, he was upset over the *news* about a King of the Jews, since that was his position! He called for the chief priests and scribes to find out exactly where this King was to be born! [Micah 5:2]

Herod questioned the Wise men and instructed them to let him know where the Child was, but his motives were murder! Many people seek God with less than pure reasons. We celebrate Christmas with parties and gifts and many activities, but how often do we consider the origin of this celebration?

The Star showed the Wise men where the Christ Child was living. They were simply overjoyed to see Him! Joseph and Mary must have been quite impressed as these men of Royalty entered their humble home to meet this little Royal King! It seems appropriate the men fell on their knees and worshipped the King of Kings before they presented their gifts! Their gifts were symbolic of a future King, who Jesus was, the King of the Jews, what He did in His ministry, and the Death on the Cross for our sins. Do we seek to offer our worship to our King before we give or ask for anything else? [Matt.2:9-11]

Have you met this Royal King personally? Is He King of your daily life? When you celebrate the Christmas Season this year, how do you plan to honor His Royal Visit? I sometimes wonder if Christ looks at all the parties and gifts and is glad people can enjoy them, but is saddened because so few look up to give Him thanks for the wonderful Gift He gave to us!

Christmas is to be a time of joy! When we have Christ in our hearts joy can overflow from our lives to others! There is joy in knowing that we have been forgiven of our sins and we have peace and good will on Earth in spite of all the adversity and stress that comes to all people. While some celebrations leave people feeling empty after the holiday is over, as Believers, we can feel blessed and full of thankfulness for all the gifts of love He has provided for us every day!

Enjoy this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, and remember Jesus really IS the reason for a joyful celebration! May His Blessings rest upon you as you trust in Him!
In His Love and Service,
Mary Mayko

Questions? Prayer Requests? Other comments? I can be contacted at my email address or church address. Email: mmako1968@msn.com
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