

THE STORY DOESN'T BEGIN HERE: THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men arrive after Jesus was born, but their journey began long before that. Why were they seeking this child? And why was Herod so interested as well? What can we learn from the wise men?

Monday: Read Matthew 2:1-8.

As you read this story again that you already may know well, what stands out?

Tuesday: Read Jeremiah 33:14-26.

When better times ahead are promised, how good are you at waiting?

Wednesday: Read Daniel 7:13-14.

How does Daniel's vision, during his exile in Persia, convey hope?

Thursday: Read Numbers 24:15-19.

If the wise men knew this text of the Torah, what might they have noted in it?

Friday: Read Isaiah 60:1-7.

What echoes from these verses repeat in Matthew's telling of the magi visit?

Saturday: Read Isaiah 9:1-7

How does the promise of Jesus coming into the world bring you hope?

SUMMARY

The story the wise men travel into is a story that begins with God's creation of humanity and continues with God reaching again and again into the lives of humankind to show love and grace, but it is also a story of humankind continually turning away. The wise men have studied a world of rulers coming and going, of war and strife, of humanity separated from God. They travel to encounter a king like no other. If what the prophets spoke is true, this child to whom they bow down and worship will change the world and usher in a new kingdom unlike any other.

Hope in God's promises brings us to encounter the birth of Jesus.