

Today's sermon: *Light at the beginning of the tunnel*

**Keeping Reason in reason for the Season.**

### **How Many Magi Came to See Jesus?**

There are at least three different perspectives about the birth of Christ. <sup>1</sup>The truth that is found in the scriptures. <sup>2</sup>Traditions and legends of men developed over the centuries. <sup>3</sup>Combination of the first two. The three wise men is a case in point. Although the popular Christmas hymn and traditions tell us that three wise men visited Christ, the Bible does not give us the number of wise men and there are also no names given to any of these individuals. The traditional view is likely based on the fact that three gifts were given (Matthew 2:9–11). However, since the Bible does not tell us the number of magi, we can only speculate. We know there were at least two magi, and there may have been many more.

### **When and Where Did They See the Lord Jesus Christ?**

The traditional view is that the wise men saw Jesus on the night of His birth, but this is highly unlikely. **Matthew 2:1** reveals that the magi came to Jerusalem and subsequently visited with Herod *after* Jesus had been born.

The angelic announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds was at night, which means that Jesus was born at night. So it is highly implausible that the wise men would arrive in Jerusalem at night and immediately obtain an audience with Herod. The king then gathered "all the chief priests and scribes of the people" (**Matthew 2:4**) so he could determine where the Messiah was to be born. The experts told Herod that the Messiah needed to be born in Bethlehem, which was predicted in **Micah 5:2**. So, the wise men departed and made their approximately six-mile journey to Bethlehem. If we assume that the wise men met with Herod during the day after Jesus was born, then the earliest they could have visited Jesus would be the next night.

As we study the Bible to gain an accurate understanding of these events, may we, like the wise men, worship the Savior Jesus Christ.



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840  
Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732  
December 21, 2014

**WELCOME!**

**Sunday Bible Class- 9:30am**

**Worship- 10:30am**

**Wednesday Bible Class- 7:00pm**



- Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.
- Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org)**

Bible class series continuing today:

## *The Book of Ephesians*

*“Sit - Walk - Stand”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- We are using our usual Wednesday evening Bible study time on Christmas Eve to sing a few carols along with the study because one or two local people have expressed an interest in such a service. Please come and help edify the group.
- Doug and Darlene Elsbree will be returning from their sojourn in FL on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.

## NEWS...

- We have placed an ad in the **Morning Times** local newspaper about Valley Cities Church of Christ.
- **Christ for Today** was mailed out to about 1000 homes in Sayre. This issue deals with “Why did Christ come to earth?”
- Don’t forget to write your **blessings** down and add to the basket.



## PRAYERS...

- Ruthie and Patty Albro’s niece, Trish’s husband, Kevin Gibson, has had a successful surgery for mouth and throat cancer, and will follow with reconstructive surgery on his tongue.
- Cindy Patrick has continued to feel unwell this week due to a bad cough. She will be having minor surgery at Robert C. Packer Hospital on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Darlene Elsbree will be having minor surgery on January 8<sup>th</sup>, soon after her return from FL.
- Victoria Ford had an MRI on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. She is awaiting results, which may be in this week.
- John Felt would like prayers for his daughter, Katie, who is having a baby at a young age. Rex asked for prayers for her son, Derrick, who will be making a big adjustment to his living conditions.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.



**Songs: 1018** Joy to the World, **1001** Hark the Herald Angels Sing, **701** My Jesus, I Love Thee, **470** Victory in Jesus, **995** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, **890** In the Land of Fadeless Day