

## **BOXING DAY SERVICE 26/12/04 MATT 2 THE MAGI**

**Of all the stories that accompanied**.....true to say.....most people are fascinated.....wise men...

**As a kid**.....always saw their part...one to be sought after in the nativity play

Joseph was always a big high to aim for  
Shepherds were only a little better than being a cow...  
sheep....back end of....

**But to be a wise man**.....with the colourful costume...  
exotic looking gifts...!!!!

**This fascination with these Eastern visitors**.....

has led to much speculation by...

**So they became three** in number....account of the 3 gifts

**Emphasis** was put on them as Kings rather than respected and wise Astrologers

**It was said** that they represented the 3 sons of Noah.....with one depicted as a negro...

**They were even** given names.....and their gifts were endowed with symbolism

**Some of this could well be true**.....

But the point is that we have in the Bible.....all we need to know

**That they** were men from the East...who looked for signs.....in the stars

That they were also familiar.....OT prophetic writings.....

that talked of a King.... Who would bring peace to the whole world.....

**And when they first** saw the star they had no doubt whatsoever....

And consequently traveled many miles to the capital.....

With a question on their lips that showed.....that they expected to discover this King Matt 2:2.....

**How surprised...** must have been to find that no one else was looking.....waiting...caring

**But they** continued till they found the One they looked for  
And despite the humble surroundings...**they Knew this was the One**  
And the gifts they gave were the best they could give

**So these men became** the first Gentiles to worship Him born as Saviour of the world  
Because God in His love...touched their hearts.....with a knowledge of Jesus  
That they chose to respond to

**Their reaction** to the knowledge that God revealed.....was entirely different to the reaction of King Herod.....and to that of the Jewish religious leaders.

**Which is quite strange when u think about it**

For Herod and the Jews had so much more to go on

They had a history of revelation stretching back thro the centuries  
The word of the prophets.....to which they even referred  
They were called the children of God !!!!!

**Yet Herod reacted with fear and brutality**

He had sufficient belief in God's promise.....to sense that there could be truth in what

He believed enough... attempt to destroy this One that the Prophets foretold

Yet also foolishly felt.....that if this was really the promised Messiah  
He had the power to defeat Almighty God's plan and purpose

**The Jewish** leaders were also troubled by the news the wise men brought  
And were in fact forced to find a Biblical answer for it  
**But in the** end they did nothing.....  
and in so doing rejected the chance of worship

**The same event**.....the same Christ child.....  
The same Almighty God touching hearts...setting great signs in the sky  
Predicting thro His Word the birth....even to the place

**Yet the reception our Lord received was so different**

**This morning we** automatically align ourselves.....with the Wise men  
For we too are here to worship Him

**But the challenge** for us is.....**Are we also like them open to the Lord's  
voice....however it may come**

**Are we opening** ourselves to hear and obey His commands....  
thro our study of His Word  
Our times with Him in prayer

**And in particular**.....are we too ready to give Him our costliest treasures  
Our lives in service.....Our time and energy in evangelism.....  
So that as we fall down in worship.....we do so with hands hearts...lives  
For Him to use as He wills

For He is our King....our Lord....Saviour and Master,