THE WORD OF GOD GETS AROUND

Jan. 7, 2018 Mt. 2:1-12

Dear Friends in Christ: How did these travelers from the East come to know about the King of the Jews? The short answer is that God did it. The Word of God has a way of getting around.

The country of China has a 4500 year history and Pastor C. H. Kang has found early Chinese picture language that tells the story of Biblical creation, the flood and the death of a man on a cross. From 2205 B. C. to 255 B. C. the Chinese were monotheists . The Chinese Book of History, found in the wall of the house of Confucius’, dates from the 24th century B.C. to 721 B.C. China had the Word of God.

Another country of the past that had the Word of God was Babylon. When Nebuchadnezzar attacked Israel about 610 B.C., he took many captives back to Babylon, including Daniel. Daniel was able, by the power of God, to interpret the dreams of the king and was elevated to be the ruler of Babylon and later Persia. Both kings worshipped the God of Daniel as the true God. It seems that many in Babylon and later Persia were converted to believe in the true God.

It follows therefore, that the Word of God was also known to them. And now we come to the star. Moses wrote in Numbers 24:17: “A star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall arise out of Israel.” It is also known that the Babylonians and the Persians were students of the study of the heavens. These men from the East ‘saw His star when it arose.’

They wanted to seek out this special King of the Jews to worship Him of whom the Scriptures spoke. These were the first Gentiles to worship the Savior, but certainly not the last.

And it most likely that they traveled a great distance to bow down to their King and Savior. There are many who will not walk down the block to worship; will not drive a mile to worship. The devil is always at work in the world to disrupt a Christian’s walk with the Lord.

The devil didn’t want Jesus to come into the world and tried to stop Him. Pharaoh ordered all boy babies 2 years and under to be killed but by God’s powerful arm, the baby Moses survived to one day lead the children of Israel to the promised land, the birth-place of Jesus.

King Herod ordered babies to be killed so that he would have no competition as king. But again, God arranged for the parents of Jesus to go to Egypt to be safe.

The devil tried to get Jesus to forget about His mission to save the world of man by offering to give Jesus power and authority and kingdoms. Jesus told the devil to get lost.

In Numbers 24 we see where the soothsayer Balaam was employed by King Balak of Moab to curse Israel so that they could be easily destroyed. But God would not let him do it but rather pronounced a blessing instead, speaking of a star that would arise out of Jacob.

Time and again God turns back attempts by the devil to short-circuit God’s plan to send a Savior.

The Star of Jacob is, as we know, none other than our dear Lord Jesus Christ, who says of Himself, Rev. 22:16: “I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star.” In God’s appointed time the Star, long fortold, rose on a world sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.

That blessed Star still sends out its mild and peaceful rays from Christ’s holy Gospel; and all in vain do sin-blinded men try to destroy its heaven-born light. Heathen-ruled countries make worship of God against the law. They burn or shut down churches. Pastors are run out or put to death. People are put in prison. Adolf Hitler went after the Gospel message. It’s still here. Lenin and Stalin tried to silence the message. It’s still here. China has tried as have countless other countries whose leaders are tools of the devil. The Word has triumphed in every case and the bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ is building His true church day by day all around the world.

The Word of God cannot be extinguished from the heart of the faithful. Our Lord tells us in Matthew 16 that the ‘gates of hell cannot overcome His church.’

Wise men still seek out the Lord and the free salvation He offers for all who will believe.

The promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life are too great and wonderful to be ignored by the human heart that longs to know God and be assured of His love. It this longing that brought the travelers from the East on their long journey to find the love and peace from above that was offered. As the strong Word of God finds its way into human hearts, a miracle happens----changes take place and in many cases, the Lord finds a fit place to dwell; in the heart that has been affected by the promises of God.

Guilt over sin and the damnation that follows is replaced by joy and hope because of the message of sins forgiven by the God of love.

Yes, the Word of God gets around. It found its way here long ago and blessing after blessing has been the result. The wise still seek out the Lord and the Lord can still be found…….until He returns.