



THEY KNEW... BUT!!

Here is a great guide for 2024! The "Wise Men" found the Christ child, worshipped Him, gave gifts and then left for home. For them Christmas had only just begun!

They had asked "*Where is He who is born, King of the Jews, for we have seen His star, and are come to worship Him*" (Matthew 2:2). They had just made a long and dangerous journey. Many today face the same if they truly seek the real Christ of God. Wise men start and finish the journey.

The Wise Men followed that star to it's final general location, but needed the specific location. We need that, too! They came to King Herod, but he didn't know, so he sent for help. The Jewish religious men knew and gave the Wise Men the right information.

There is no record or evidence that the men that knew the right information actually went to Bethlehem to worship the Messiah-Saviour who God had promised...but the Wise Men did!

The religious men knew and shared vital information about the greatest prophecy in the entire Old Testament...of the coming of the world's only Saviour. What a



privilege! They knew! So, why didn't they go? Were they afraid of "the Kosher police" or the Roman Government? Whatever the reason, it was a big mistake. Many today are doing the same.

29 March, 2024, called "Good Friday," is a truly wonderful time and opportunity to remember Christ's crucifixion. Some adults living at Christ's birth could also have been there at His crucifixion; including some of those men who informed the Wise Men! Let's not make the same mistake; having the right information, but not acting on it. Regarding such soul-saving action, the Bible never says "tomorrow;" it always says "today!" (Hebrews 3: 7, 13, 15).



"God SO LOVED the world that He gave His only Son!" (page 2)

1) All people need to be saved. 2) All people can be saved. 3) All people can know they are saved. 4) All people can be saved "to the uttermost" (completely).

"Peace On Earth" is the message of Christmas AND the Cross!

Through the Cross, Christ provided immediate access and true reuniting to God for every person on earth. Jesus IS our peace. He came and MADE peace. He went out and PREACHED peace! (Ephesians 2:13-19 in the Bible).

I attend The Salvation Army at 5 Brampton Grove, Hendon, NW4 4AE Sunday 10 a.m. Come and join me!



Registered Charity #1092050

WINTER to SPRING 2023-2024

The

A paper for all people everywhere... and with a personal touch!

To read, to apply...and to share with others!

London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor. Printing in London since 1983
421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806
Website: www.londonchristianstandard.com

THE BRILLIANT LOOK!

Going Forward With Certainty!
We Left "PORT CHRISTMAS" 2023 and Launched into "OCEAN NEW YEAR" 2024



two visible objects. Using the horizon and the position of a star, they could know where they were on that vast body of water. What a relief to know where you are!

2024 is an untraveled ocean. 2023 "waved" Good-bye. Yet, each year's end places a Star in the sky for us to chart our journey and safely reach heaven's shore... which is the most desirable Port of all!

"The Wise Men" followed a God-given Star in their search

Finding Our Way In A Messed Up World



Ship navigators began tracking their location long ago using a sextant which measures the angular distance between

(continued on page 2)



FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS! MARCH 29, 2024 IS GOOD FRIDAY.

The angel, Gabriel, announced Christ's birth, saying "He shall be called Jesus (meaning Saviour), for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). Jesus DID this...33 years later on the Cross;

the very reason He came. **CHRISTMAS WAS FOR THE CROSS.**



(continued from front page)

for Christ. (Matthew 2). The Bible and God’s Holy Spirit are our “Star” as we travel toward life’s horizon using our God-given inward “sextant” to help us to travel 2024’s ocean.

Joining the “Star” of God’s Word and His Spirit are godly travellers, past and present, who help to encourage and guide, so keep sailing! (Hebrews 1:1-3 with Ecclesiastes 4:12).



THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS WAS...

THE GREATEST PHILANTHROPY FOR THE GREATEST POVERTY AMID THE GREATEST INSANITY

“Philanthropy” (above) refers to charity, compassion and generosity.



(AN EARLY START!)

No one has ever done earlier “Christmas shopping” than God. His Christmas Gift to us was “from before the foundation of the world!” (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8). *That’s early!*

All three “GREATESTS,” (see above), are in St. John 3:16, “The Golden Text of the Bible,” which also presents the Bible’s

Main Actors and Actions in one Peerless and Priceless Proclamation! It says, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” (Jn. 3:16)

“MADLY IN LOVE!” God demonstrated *this kind* of “INSANITY” in that First Christmas. But *there, God didn’t “Lose His Marbles;” He Loosed His Marvels*—scene after scene!! And what “actors!” John the Baptist’s old parents! Mary! Joseph! The Bethlehem Shepherds! That old man, Simeon, and the old woman...and finally, the Wise Men from the East! In ALL of these moving scenes, we see the love of God Almighty. He was, “INSANELY IN LOVE” with us all! He is the same today.

“MAD” has negative meaning, too, and was *also* at work in the first Christmas. Today it is going “big time!” King Herod tried to have “the little Lord Jesus” killed. Herod represents the INSANITY of Christmas from the evil and antagonistic side, and “Herod” is very active today...but, so is God!

In the Christmas story, Herod’s INSANITY...his madness and

(continued on page 3)



(continued from page 6)

Christ came to remove our GREATEST POVERTY (see page 2) by bringing Heaven’s Best to us... “*the pearl of great price,*” “*the treasure hid in the field*” etc. (Matthew 13 “Parables of the Kingdom”). **What a feast!**

Feasts need many ingredients. I have already blended Christmas and the Cross. Now, let’s add the Resurrection and Ascension which perfectly and properly fit into God’s own “recipe!”

The Cross was not a victory for those who crucified Jesus Christ. By the Cross, Jesus “*stripped, disarmed and rid Himself of all the hostile powers of evil. He, then made them a public example, exposing them to public shame; displaying His triumph over them by way of that Cross!*” (multi-versions of Colossians 2:13-15). The Lord Jesus Christ came, as foretold, to provide God’s cure for THE WORLD’S GREATEST POVERTY by going to the Cross!

Christmas is associated with GIFT-giving due to God’s Great GIFT in Christ...but there’s more!

Jesus Christ poured out GIFTS when He JOYFULLY poured out Himself on the Cross! “...Who for the JOY set before Him, endured the cross.”- (Hebrews 12:2, Luke 2:10).

After Christ’s Cross was His Resurrection and Ascension. The Ascension highlighted GIFT GIVING, too! Read it: “*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and GAVE GIFTS to men.*” (Ephesians 4: 7, 8).

Those verses quote Psalm 68:18 that refers to GIFTS given and/or received in connection to the Lord and “*the rebellious...*” just like in Psalm 2, where God holds out the offer of peace... even to conspiring rebels!! The world is filled with rebels in every corner and at every level, and all rebels should take notice of this.

Psalm 68, above, also says that God “*daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation!*”, (verse 19). **WOW! MORE GIFTS!**

As we sail further into the ocean of a New Year, The Christ of Christmas and the Cross knows our exact location *without a sextant* as mentioned on page 1. Christ Himself, put all the stars in place! He knows the stars by name...and He knows *our* name. New Year 2024 stretches out ahead of us. *God’s hand* stretches out toward us! Take it. Trust it.

Happy New Year!
Happy Valentine’s Day!
Happy Easter!
...and Thank God for the Cross!

(continued from page 5)

1:21). THIS is “holiness “without which no one shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14).

Another English church-song of the 1700s says: “Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.” When God saves us from sin, He saves us from “the wrath to come”, (Matthew 3:7). That’s “step one” of “the double cure.”

“Pentecost,” (also called “Whitsunday”) is on **Sunday, 19 May this year**. It refers to “the promise of the Father;” the coming of God’s Holy Spirit to “make me pure.” (Luke 24:49). That’s “step two” of “the double cure.” Then keep obeying! (Acts 5:32).

Jesus is God’s Promised Gift of “Christmas.” The Holy Spirit, “The promise of the Father” is His Promised Gift of Pentecost! But Christ HAD to come first!

Jesus made a wilful choice, but opposite from Adam’s wilful choice! Yes, JESUS KNEW the consequences, but also knew the wonderful resulting “Possibilities of Grace” for you and me. What love! One song says of Jesus:

“He left the splendour of heaven, KNOWING His destiny.
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha*
There to lay down His life for me.
If that isn’t love!!”

(*Golgotha, just mentioned, is where Jesus was crucified.)

Christmas was for the Cross. Christ’s willing sacrifice on the Cross provided what Old Testament sacrifices could never do:

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.’ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.’ ” (Heb. 10: 5-7; quotes Psalm 40).

So, in the verses just quoted, God promised a Saviour who would die for our sins to provide “The Way” (John 14:6) for us to get back to God. Ok, 1+1= 2. So, think: 1) That promised Sacrifice must die. 2) You cannot “kill” steam or gas or a ghost! It took “a body,” just like that verse, above, says. That “body” arrived as **the Baby Born in Bethlehem.**

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 2)

murder...focused around little Bethlehem. Today’s “Herod” is globally active, seemingly trying to correct for past failure and complete the job, once and for all. He will fail again.



I’m glad **THE WISE MEN** listened to the TRUE “Main Stream Media” (God!) instead of Herod’s “Monarch Misleading and Mandating Media!” (See Matthew 2) Let’s do the same!

Psalm 2, written over 1000 years before The First Christmas, tells of the global uniting of people “against the Lord and against His Christ.” **First of all**, rebel planners... individually or collectively... are no match for God. **Secondly**, “against His Christ” means the planners put a sort of “Mafia contract” out on “Christmas.” They failed. But all such rebels, whether “peaceful” or noisy, have obviously not learned their lesson, for this **INSANITY** is going on today! God laughs at such global insurrection! (Psalm 2: 4).

But God doesn’t wickedly “laugh” at people. In the First Christmas, **God wasn’t laughing** when Herod had all those little children slaughtered in his **INSANITY**-driven attempt to get rid of this promised Messiah-Saviour, Christ. **God doesn’t laugh** at this world’s present tragedies, either, and that includes TODAY’S purposely-slaughtered children, world-wide!...and it IS happening!

In Psalm 2, **God LAUGHS... but also LOVES!** Mark that down!! Those global conspirators had specifically declared their target: “against the Lord and against His Christ.” Yet, even to these rebels, God offers peace... yes, on HIS terms. **That same offer is available today.**

In The First Christmas, Jesus was laid in a **Cattle “Cradle.”** At age 33, He was shamelessly and ruthlessly judged, beaten, mocked and then put on **Calvary’s Cross** outside Jerusalem’s city gates. (John 19: 17, 18; Hebrews 13:12). We will especially remember this on **29 March, this year**. On the Cross, Jesus prayed “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.” **INSANITY of the worst sort!** Sin always is. Rebel planners... as in Psalm 2... as at the Cross... and as today... have no idea of the full consequences of

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

their choices. **INSANITY** indeed!

Such rebel planners have an **INSANITY** that is mental, moral, maliciously spiritual... and will be *eternal*, unless rebels experience a God-enabled change "*while it is called today!*" (Hebrews 3:7-15).

Psalm 2 tells of a *foolish and failed coup d'état* against THE **GOVERNMENT OF GOD**. Yes, God has **GOVERNMENT!** Between 500-600 years before Christ was born, God had the prophet, Isaiah, write about His **GOVERNMENT** and to gently place that **GOVERNMENT** in Bethlehem's manger! Here is what God had Isaiah to write:



*"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the **GOVERNMENT** will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of HIS **GOVERNMENT** and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."* (Isaiah 9: 6, 7).



Did you see that Tiny Tot's Titles?! Also notice that **GOD'S GOVERNMENT** links to peace... *true peace* (see page 8 box)...and to *order, righteousness and justice*.

Furthermore, God had Micah the prophet to tell where that Baby, God-King was to be born; in Bethlehem! (Micah 5:2). The back page article tells how *religious leaders knew exactly* what Micah had said, and that they told this to King Herod.

The Greatest Poverty (page 2) **started in the Garden of Eden** when, *by sin*, Adam and Eve were "stripped" — spiritually, morally, mentally and other ways that are essential to our total well-being. Instead of "**from rags to riches**," they went the opposite way like no other people in history! The Christ of Christmas and the Cross is God's cure for that human loss. Revelation 3: 14-22 (note verse 20) is God's love-filled invitation to "sin-stripped" people today.

When Adam, Eve and, as the tragic result, ALL humanity were "stripped" in Eden, the *instantly* created effect then began filling everything with all the spreading branches of sin that have been defiling and destroying the whole world...people **AND** planet. **YES, THE GREATEST POVERTY!**

(continued on next page)



CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY: At Oxford Circus one year at Christmastime, I was asked when Jesus was born. I quickly said "April, 1973." The man asking me stood in stunned silence, then asked "Where did you get THAT?!" I quoted the old Christmas song that says "Oh, holy Child of Bethlehem descend on us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today." Then I added, "THAT is when He was born in ME!" G. L. Mancino, editor



(continued from page 4)

Jesus is called the "Second Adam," the "Desire of nations" and "the woman's conqu'ring Seed" in Charles Wesley's 1739 hymn, "**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.**" In this hymn, just below, England's Wesley prays for us to be reinstated in God's love:



"Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Your humble home; Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head Adam's likeness, now efface, Stamp Your image in its place: Second Adam from above, Reinstate us in Your love."



The reference, above, to "*the woman's conquering Seed*" and of "*bruising the serpent's head*" is in the Bible. (Genesis 3:15). Adam's sin was greatly caused by the lying deception of Satan, "the serpent," whose head God said would be bruised/crushed by "*the woman's conquering seed*" which was Christ. It **WAS** crushed on His Cross, by His Resurrection, and further crushed in His Ascension!

Even with his amazing advantages Adam sinned, bringing "**hell on earth**" and **hell in the human heart**. Sin still does.

Yet, even in the face of their life-changing and world-changing

sin, God gave Adam and Eve the promise of the Messiah-Saviour. Yes, Jesus Christ is **God's Bridge of Hope for us all...** and "*we are not following cleverly made-up fairy tales!*" (2 Peter 1:16).

Wesley's hymn-song refers to Jesus as "**Second Adam** from above." In temptation, Adam fell into sin. Jesus, the Second Adam, came, was *also* tempted by Satan, had no more help than Adam had, but had a far different outcome! Jesus kept totally and constantly committed to "the Father." Adam was created with sinless holiness and amazing intellect, but that was not enough! It must be maintained.

The faithful, loving attitude of Christ to the Father was told before in the words, "I delight to do Your will, O God." (Psalm 40: 7, 8). Jesus confirmed that commitment, saying "*He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone for I always do those things that please Him.*" (John 8: 29). But Jesus didn't even stop *there!*

Jesus was God's "**Christmas Present**" Who purchased salvation for all, but we must come to Him; many refuse (John 5:40). Jesus said that we can live "**just as**" HE did "*that the world may believe*", (John 17). He came, as the angel Gabriel said, *to save us from all sin and keep us saved.* (Matthew

(continued on page 6)