

12/12/21

## **Sermon -Wise Men Come**

**Scripture - Daniel 9:23-27, Mathew, Micah 5:2-4**

**Main Message- The wise listen to the prophets and watch for signs of the age.**

Greeting my esteemed friends. May you never forget the fortune of living in such times as these. My name is Belteshazzar 7. Yes, I am the 9<sup>th</sup> generation Belteshazzar and in obedience to the Holy God and of my order I have come. We, the Magi have long preserved the knowledge of Belteshazzar the First, who was blessed by God with prophecy and knowledge. He taught us what the messengers of the Holy One spoke to him and the signs and wonders and times and seasons to watch for. You may know him better as the Prophet Daniel. He taught us and we taught others. For nearly 5 centuries we have kept that watch, teaching the next generation and the next after that, taking great care with every detail so that we would be prepared for the day in which the Messiah would come. It has not been easy, in particular for those who would never see the coming of the Glorious one, yet we stayed true to the faith that one day the messiah would come. We have traveled far from the East knowing that the foretold time was upon us and with along with the star which was foretold only to us. You will remember from your Torah, that the stars in the sky, the constellations from God is to know times and season and this my illustrious friends is a season of greatness. Ahh, but how did we know? This is the message Belteshazzar 1 was given. Read Daniel 9:24-25

Truly, blessed are you all to live in such times as these. You might have forgotten, with the Roman occupation of your lands, the burden by their restraints, and the corrupt government that are not truly your people that rule over you. Yes, they tax you and give you crumbs in return, nevertheless, take heart because now you may live without concern or worry because from the tribe of Judah, the messiah has come. We have traveled here from the west to bring Him gifts which we have delivered to the young child. Those gifts of Gold and Frankincense and Myrrh will enable such things that we are unaware of. But the Messiah has come and you must know that God loves you beyond measure. I pause to tell you this story so that you also may know of this miracle of miracles.

We came by the road from Shinar in a caravan, well protected from robbers and miscreants. We brought gifts to him not knowing how they would be used, but have been set aside for a very long time. Though we saw the star, and we knew the timing was right, we did not have all the details of where to find Him whom we sought. We went to King Herod and held audience with him and he spoke with various scribes and religious authorities to know the location of the messiah. We waited a few days as they were gathered to discuss this. Not surprisingly there was quite a bit of shock as the news got around. Our guards were up to the task of protecting us of course. The answer was forthcoming and needed not so much effort for those who knew scripture answered readily that Bethlehem was the location we sought. They read the prophet Micah 5:2-4. Ahh, others of God had more detail which we lacked. God's wisdom demonstrated again how careful He is with His plans. Herod then dismissed everyone except me, and my brothers' magi and he asked details about the stars appearance and to search carefully for the child. As soon as we were to find him, he wanted us to return with a report so he could also worship him. I felt uneasy about his sincerity.

We left and it was not a far journey to Bethlehem where we found the child with his mother. I cannot express the joy of finding him. You probably cannot fathom the mystery of this one prophecy from blessed Belteshazzar that so many before us wished to witness but stayed faithful. The star that we kept watch for led us at just the right time to his very side. This child was why we travelled over a hundred leagues to present to him these gifts. We gave unto him Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh. Our labor was not in vain. We witnessed the Messiah, humbly brought into this world by a Holy God who kept his promise to its time. Our faith was justified by Him. We bowed down before him. We thanked God for him. The child was beautiful to behold.

We did not stay long as we were attracting attention and we had fulfilled our duty which was set in motion so long ago. We found a place to rest for the night, but our dreams were difficult and filled with warnings. We were not to go back the way we came and to avoid Herod at all costs. I have no need to tell you of the importance of listening to such warning when it came from God. We were not overly impressed by King Herod or his sincerity in worship of the messiah and our spirit was unsettled when we were with him. This dream confirmed it.

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We had heard also that the father was warned in a dream to take the child and leave immediately for Egypt. NOW we knew the importance of our gifts. His way to safety was made easier by our faithfulness over these last centuries. We stayed faithful until the end.

So, we are returning to our land and our families, but we will take with us the glory of what we have seen and done and we will continue to live and share the wonderful love that God Almighty has for us and we will watch carefully what will happen as this child grows and fulfills all that has been written by the prophets. Perhaps one day we will see Him again in all his Majesty. Won't that be a day like no other.