

GIJAPA



God Is Just A Prayer Away
Radio Broadcast Around the World

GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 Dial	Cincinnati, OH
WLW	8:00 AM	700 Dial	Cincinnati, OH
KXEL	10:00 AM	1540 Dial	Waterloo, IA
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 Dial	Richmond, VA
WRVA	9:30 PM	1140 Dial	Richmond, VA
WIBC	7:30 AM	93.1 Dial	Indianapolis, IN
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AFRICA:
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(1800 UTC) 7190 kHz on Dial

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Seasons Greetings

54th Year Broadcasting

THANK YOU to all the Churches and Individuals who have helped us so faithfully throughout this year! We've been unable to order Bibles since August until just this month. Thanks to you for your checks designated for Bibles and postage. Thanks to the Individuals and Churches that have provided us with truckloads of clothes and shoes throughout this year. Thank you for your faithful gifts, we can't carry on this monumental work with a budget of over half million dollars WITHOUT YOUR HELP! Have a wonderful holiday season and remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

UNDER the TREE HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS

December 25th is the birthday of the Lord. It should not be necessary, but it needs to be pointed out that we don't know what day the Lord was born. He didn't tell us in His word. But He was born and it might as well have been December 25th as any other day of the year.

People usually receive gifts on their birthday so we need to give the Lord a gift on His birthday. Then there is an additional element when we think of Christmas - there is the matter of the tree. If you are going to give a gift to the Lord on His birthday, put the present under the tree. Put it under the tree that Peter talked about. Peter said in Acts the fifth chapter, "Whom also they slew hanging Him on a tree." Paul said in Galatians the third chapter in speaking of the crucifixion, "Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree." You see, the real TREE is the CROSS. Personally I can think of no better way to celebrate the birthday of the Lord than by placing a generous check at the foot of the cross. Sending that check to the GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY radio broadcast is one way to put your present

under the tree, and know exactly where it's going, because you can listen every Sunday to the many broadcast on the radio (see above for listings and times of each) and 24/7 at www.gijapa.org.

THE STAR



In Matthew chapter 2 we find the story of the STAR.

The star is mentioned four times in this chapter. The first time is in the second verse. Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. The second time is in the seventh verse. Then Herod, when he had privily called the Wise Men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. The third time is in the ninth verse. When they had heard the King, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and

stood over where the young child was. The fourth time is in the tenth verse, which reads, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST

The Wise Men saw the star while they were in the east. The gospel song says it for us: *Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

The Wise Men came to Jerusalem looking for the newborn King. It is to be remembered that the first question that God asked of the first Adam in the Old Testament in the Garden of Eden was, “Adam where art thou?” The first question that is asked of the second Adam in the New Testament was by the Wise Men and they said, “Where is He? Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have come to worship Him.” They called Jesus the King. He was the King. For 1 thing He was born a King. He is called the King while He was in the cradle. Not only was He recognized as the **King in the Cradle**, He was also called the **King on the Cross**. Pilate put up a sign on the cross that proclaimed Him, “**JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.**”

The King in the Cradle and The King on the Cross. But His Kingship reached out to another dimension; **He is King of the Church**. Upon this rock I will build My church, I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom. My kingdom is not of this world.

King in the Cradle, King on the Cross, King of the Church, and also **King at His coming again**. In the imagery of Revelation He is seen at His return on a white horse and on His thigh was written **KING OF KINGS** and **LORD OF LORDS**.

WHAT TIME THE STAR APPEARED

The second mention of the Star, Herod called unto him the Wise Men privately. Herod asked the Wise Men what time the star appeared. Herod obviously believed the scripture. He believed that the Christ had come. Believing it, he had no intention of accepting the truth, and applying it to his life. What the Lord wanted did not fit his life style. There is many a Herod in this audience today. People who believe the gospel truth, but no affirmative decision will be made. So he inquired what time the star appeared. He sent them to find out exactly concerning the young Child. Neither Herod nor the scribes went with the Wise Men. They knew and believed the scripture, but there was a gap between their knowledge and their performance. The prophecy said that the newborn King would be a governor of His people. Herod did not want a governor over him. It is the same problem now. In the first gospel sermon on the Day of Pentecost, Peter laid it on the line when he said in the 36th verse of the second chapter of Acts. “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” People today want a Savior, they want a Messiah, but they don’t want a Lord. Jesus not only wants to be your Savior, He wants to be your Lord as well. He wants to be able to tell you what to do, what to say, how to live. He wants to give thrust to your life.

THE STAR WENT BEFORE THEM

And they having heard the King went their way and lo the star, which they saw in the east, went before them and came and stood over the place where the young child was. Many explanations have been given regarding the star. One of the most popular is that there was a conjunction of planets about that time of the planets Mars, Jupiter, and Venus. They supposedly were lined up in such a way as to look like one gigantic star. This explanation just won’t work. Suppose that all the planets in our solar system were lined up in such a way as to form one gigantic super star. Think of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto; so, arranged in the heavens that they looked like one glorious celestial light. There would be one glaring reason why even such a sight, as this could not have guided the Wise Men. Even such a star would not stand over any particular house. It would stand over every house in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and over every house in all the area. There is no way that such a heavenly sight could fit the scriptural account, the star that they had seen in the east that went before them, and stood over the place where the young child was. There is no way that astronomers today can find the Star that guided the Wise Men. It was a special star used of God for the great event of the birth of Jesus. Now at this point the Wise Men had a problem. Some great mystery they could not understand. It must have baffled them no end. I refer to the statement that, the star stood over the place where the young child was. Think of their amazement as they knocked on the door. Joseph opens, and welcomes them. The Wise Men say, “Is this it? Is this the place?” Joseph says, “You have come to the right place.” One of the Wise Men, I have forgotten which one said, “This doesn’t look like the right place. On all the Christmas cards I have received there should be a manger and some cattle, and some shepherds. If this is the right place, please explain, where the shepherds are, and there also ought to be some angels flying overhead and we don’t see anyone. Why isn’t the choir singing, Silent Night Holy Night?”

It was at this point, that Joseph told them, “If you gentlemen want to get your spiritual guidance from Christmas cards, no wonder you had a hard time finding us. The shepherds have been here and are long gone, maybe a couple of years ago. We moved out of the stable, and have been at this house for some time now.” The star went before them and stood over the place where the young child was. The star did not go past Bethlehem, nor did it fall short of Bethlehem, nor did it go the right of, or the left of Bethlehem. It came to the place, smack dab on the spot over the house where the young child was. And that brings us to the fourth mention of the star.

WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR THEY REJOICED

The fourth mention of the star was when they saw it with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house, and saw the young child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. It says they worshiped Him. It does not say they worshiped her. They worshiped Him. And they offered unto Him gifts: a rattle, a pacifier and a teddy bear. Who in their right mind would give any child

gold, and frankincense, and myrrh? What could a young child, as Jesus is called here, do with gifts like that? Do you really believe they gave Him stuff like that? Perhaps as we read what they really gave, we ought to revamp our giving ideas. The reason they gave what they gave was because they were Wise Men and not dumb men. How about giving young people a good example. One high school student who came to school drunk, when asked how she got booze to get drunk at seven o'clock in the morning said, she got it out of the refrigerator at home. That may be the best gift some of you could give to your kids, pour your booze down the drain. How about giving yourself something as a stocking stuffer, some self-respect? The greatest gift of all is the gift of yourself. An example, of the kind of giving that counts, is found in Second Corinthians chapter 8, "And this they did, regarding the poor Churches of Macedonia, who gave beyond their means." Some today live beyond their means, but these gave beyond their means. The secret of their generosity was they first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. The greatest gift you can give is to give of yourself.

CONCLUSION

These are the four times the star is mentioned in Matthew chapter two: We saw His star in the east, what time the star appeared, the star went before them and stood over the place, and they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great Joy.

The Star road is the fairest road that ever you will follow.

It winds as sweetly as a song through desert and through hollow.

It leads us up high mountain peaks, and into promised lands.

And at the end a baby waits with tiny out flung hands.

The Star road is the straightest road, although it climbs and dips.

But always there's a garden spot, a spring for parching lips.

There always is a bit of shade when midday gilds the skies.

*And at the end a mother waits with wonder in her eyes
O you who travel on that road the starlight has made,
bright*

Need never fear the crash of storms the tumult of the night.

And at the end the Savior waits with a haven for us all.

For through the crowding centuries the angel voices call!

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME'

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care

In hopes that Jesus would not come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.
When out of the east there arose such a clatter.
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!
The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "it's not here" my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

Author Unknown

My Prayer for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

O Lord God, Thy Son came into the world the first time at Bethlehem of Judea. And I believe His promise, Heavenly Father that He will come again. Heavenly Father, Thy servant Simon Peter said, regarding the coming of that day, that the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat and the earth and all things therein shall be burned up. And then Lord, I remember the words of another of Thy Son's own Apostles, whose name is Paul. He said, "We look for the blessed hope and appearing of the great God our Saviour." And in another place He said that He would come in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and who have not obeyed the gospel. Then Lord, I also remember that almost the last thing that the Apostle John said in the New Testament was, "Come, Lord Jesus." O Lord, Thy servant does take note that Peter said we should earnestly desire the coming of that day, and Paul said we should look for His appearing and John prayed for it to happen.

O Lord, Thy servant takes note of the violence in America and the view of elected officials regarding abortion and same sex marriage. And Lord, Thy servant is overwhelmed by the madness of the American people who have made sports their god, and worship at the shrine of the Hall of Fame. O Lord, I cannot help but remember in Thy word how You rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, cities that were not nearly as out of line with Thy will as many in America today. Thy son Jesus Himself said that it would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Judgment than for some of those who were privileged to hear His word.

“And now Father, in view of the promise of Jesus that He has gone to prepare a place for us, we pray that the promise will soon be fulfilled when the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall arise first; and they who are left alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.”

The King

The Wise Men came to Jerusalem looking for the King. They found the King at Bethlehem: Jesus was King in the cradle. Jesus was also King on the cross: there was a sign that Pilate put on the cross that proclaimed Him, “King of the Jews.” Jesus was King at the triumphal entry in the fulfillment of the prophecy, “Behold thy King cometh unto thee.” Jesus was King of the Church: in Acts 17 the charge was made that Paul and Silas said, “There is another King, one Jesus.” Jesus will be King at His second coming: in Revelation 19 He is portrayed in His coming again, “As King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” Jesus is King on the Judgment Day: twice we are told, “And the King said unto them.” The King in the cradle affected people in different

ways. When Herod heard of the arrival of the newborn King he was troubled and all Jerusalem with Him. Herod was all shook up by a baby. If Herod was all shook up before the King had preached one sermon, worked one miracle, and arose from the dead, what will it be like when he is dragged out of his grave and sees the King come in His glory with all the angels? The arrival of the King affected the Wise Men in a better way. They fell down and worshiped Him. They did not worship Mary, they worshiped Him. Another great teaching of their worship is the fact that when they worshiped Him, they also gave to Him. True worship includes giving to Him. Someone has pointed out that true worship does not exist apart from sacrifice. “They gave unto Him gold, and frankincense and myrrh.” The gold of the Wise Men was greatly needed, although the Wise Men did not realize it at the time. Joseph was told to flee to Egypt until Herod was dead. That gold no doubt financed the journey and sustained his family until they returned to Nazareth.

Paul tells us the church is the body of Jesus. If the physical body of the little King needed gold, it is also true that the church body also needs the gift of gold today to finance the preaching of the message of the King. We at GIJAPA are grateful for the sacrificial support of the many who make this work possible.



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