



## THE SONG THAT MUST BE SUNG

2<sup>nd</sup> in a Set of Christmas Sermons

**Passage: Matthew 1:1-18** – Topic: Glorifying God

This past Sunday, Rick gave the second of two Christmas messages. This time we looked at the Matthew story of the birth of Jesus, especially focusing on the Magi, who came to worship the child.

We heard how these men from the East studied the prophecies of the birth of the King of the Jews, having watched for a sign in the skies. At the proper time, they formed a caravan and set out to find this newborn king. When they found Him, they worshipped Him. When King Herod heard of their quest and devised a plot to kill the baby, the Magi did not reveal His location. When Herod realized he had been tricked, he ordered the death of all boys under age two in Bethlehem.

Rick pointed out that if the Magi were not a part of the story of Jesus' birth, the only material difference would be that all those little boys would not have been killed.

So why did God reveal the birth of His Son to the Magi? What do we make of all this? Rick points out three things:

1. Spiritual war has physical victims. When Satan and his army fight, their goal is to destroy humans. Often that results in catastrophic loss of human life and to humans it appears to be simply the occurrence of natural disasters or the result of acts of evil human beings, because the spiritual realm is not visible to us. But it is important for us to be aware of the truth. We need to avoid the tendency to blame God for these disasters, to doubt Him, or even just to be unaware of the war waging around us.
2. We must trust God. His perfect righteousness deserves our trust. Rick had us consider the fact that Israel in general rejected Jesus, so He went outside of Israel, using people who broke just about every law He gave the Jews, as an indictment against Israel's

rejection of Jesus. It goes along with the whole set of counter-intuitive details of the Christmas story. No human perpetrating a hoax would choose such illogical and counter-intuitive details.

3. The universe needed to glorify God at the birth of the Son of the Creator. If Israel wasn't going to do it, then someone else needed to be told.