

Wise Men Still Seek Him and Bring Him Gifts! Pt 7
Forward Living!
Slide Notations

“who for the joy set before him...”

Recap... Wise Men... *Follow the One-and-Only Star that leads to God! Sidestep hindrances and entangle-ments to get to Him as directly as possible! Open their treasures to give gifts suitable and significant to who they see!*

Recap... Wise Men See Him as... *The Lover of Men's Souls! The Wholly, Holy One! The Strong-Love Friend! The God-way-or-no-way Chooser! The Man with all-the-way faith! The One who made everyone else more important than Himself w/o making Himself any less!*

Today, let's add one last "perception" of Him to complete His "perfect gift" list!

Let's take a look at the baby-boy-man-King, who showed us how to live for another day!

Heb 12.2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. -KJV

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. -NIV

Don't take your eyes off Jesus, the leader and completer of our faith, until you see & perceive that for the sake of another day, He selflessly laid down His life on the cross, disesteeming the shame, then crossing over He sat down with God in the very day He saw and lived for. -CDV

Jesus... Came on the scene of human life as the perfect icon of God! Led the charge for conquering faith & selfless, futuristic life! Lived on this planet, in the moment, w/all the distractions- Saying "yes" to God and "no" to all the rest... Because He saw another Day!

Jesus... Was living for another day... by the age of 12! **Lk 2.42ff** when He "set His face" toward Jerusalem! **Lk 9.51** when He wept over the blindness of His people! **Lk 19.41** when He prayed "not My will..." in Gethsemane! **Lk22.42** When He said, "Into Your hands I commend My Spirit!" **Lk 23.46**

Jesus... Was living for another day... Reckoning the world incapable of fulfilling Him... Knowing that on a future day of reckoning, God alone held eternal fulfillment for the faithful... Knowing that His time was for the sake of reconciling men to God! Knowing there was a "better time" ahead...

Jesus could sense its nearness! Jesus could feel its joy! Jesus could smell its fragrance! Jesus could hear its noise!

Jesus... Was living in the same futuristic way with man as God! **Gen 3.21** Was living the same futuristic way as Abraham! **Gen 12/15** Was living in the same futuristic way as the prophets! **Mt 13.17** Was living the same futuristic way as multitudes of faithful people... **Heb 11.1-40**

And we are invited to bring Him the same gift of forward living!

Heb 11.13-16 To be people willing to die in faith, receiving the promises or not, but seeing them in the distance. And it is enough – because we are persuaded, embrace and clearly state that we are foreigners here desiring the better, heavenly country, that God has prepared for the faithful!

Our Calling... To live in the world, now, vital, relevant... but by faith... and free from the world order... To live amid the distractions saying no *to the little bit* we are tempted with... To be governed, now, by a heart for the future we have in God!

Our view... Our world is about to change... Reckless, violent crime surges; New velocity/moral unraveling; Consumer debt/mortgage crisis; Election year/grace or judgment; Victories against the Church; Global shift in world markets

"the fast pace I expected was faster than I expected!" -Buffet

"Chindia's" 2.4b consumer base comes on line winter 2008! Goal: 550m new middle class; w/i 10 years will consume bulk of worlds oil/produce bulk pollution; Monopolize niche markets/steel production/ food reserves; Already so "capitalized" now outsourcing to Viet Nam/Camb.

Our nation... In financial crisis, will unravel, just as the people tied to \$system will panic and unravel too! Will require informed, focused, selfless, disciplined, power-full people to step up to the plate... To lead those who have lost their foundation, faith, way!

***Leaders are the people who stand to fight when others have taken flight!
Some leaders are born... but most are made by the power of readiness!***

Jesus... Told us that when the signs of the times begin to show... "that men's hearts will fail them for fear and for the expectation of the things to follow." **Lk 21.26** But He told us what to expect so that our hearts won't fail, and being secure, we can strengthen the brotherhood! **Mt 24/Lk 22**

Jesus... Expects us to know the future... Expects us to live for a brighter day and better time... Expects us to plan for both "futures..." The immediate, concluding for us! The eternal, ready to dawn for us!

What's Your... Spiritual Plan for success? To be found in the righteousness of God which comes by faith, to know Him and the power of His life and the fellowship of His sufferings... **Ph 3.9,10** To be vigorous w/power by His Spirit in the inner man; rooted and grounded; able to comprehend; able to know... **Eph 3.16-19**

What's Your... Mental Plan for stability? Setting my mind on things above where Jesus sits next to God **Col 3.1** Watching out for unbelief causing me to depart from the living God **Heb 3.12** If after having escaped worldly corruption through salvation I become entangled in it again my end is worse than my beginning! **2P2.20,21**

What's Your... Physical Plan to go to the end? To win this race I am running I must be temperate in all things. I will not let my body rule me but I will keep it in check. **1C 10.24-27** I will take drastic measures to not be mastered by my flesh **Pr 23.1,2** I will present my body as a living sacrifice, whole and holy, to God which is reasonable... **Ro 12.1**

What's Your... Financial Plan to prosper? I will bring my tithe... and see the Lord open the windows of heaven to me... **Mal 3.8-12** I will give and it will come back to me abundantly... **Lk 6.38** God wants me to abound for every good work... **2Cor 9.7-11** W/o being ruled by money which causes me to err... **1T 6.8-11**

What's Your... Retirement Plan? I will make friends for myself with my money so that when I die there will be many there to receive me! **Lk 16.9** Being rich in good works... I lay up in store for myself, riches, for the time that is coming... **1T 6.18** Building on the foundation of Christ w/gold/silver/gems that will stand the test of fire... **1Cor 3.11-15**

Thinking forward, living forward... Fearlessly forward, faithfully forward... Are gifts Jesus loves to get!

Wise men still search for Him and bring Him the best gifts!