

THE FAR OFF NEAR THE NEAR FAR OFF MATTHEW 2

Text:

Introduction:

There were two results from Christ's coming, as there always will be, for this Child is not only a Savior to some, but also a stumbling block to others.

Notice the "Behold" in the verse.

There are far - off persons who come very nigh. Wise men from the east come and worship Christ, but there are those that were near who were far off. Herod, the chief priest, and the scribes.

1. There Are Far Off Ones Who Are Brought Nigh

A. Wise Men.

1. Many are so wise that his wisdom baffles them.

(1 Corinthians 1:25-29) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger

than men. {26} For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: {27} But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; {28} And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: {29} That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Illustration:

The Shepherds know the way while wise men, went to Jerusalem instead of Bethlehem.

2. However they did come even though in a roundabout way.

B. Walking Men. (lined for away in the east.)

C. Wonderfully Guarded. (the star)

D. Wishfully Inquired. (where is he)

2. The nigh Ones Far - Off

A. Many were troubled about Christ.

1. Herod and all Jerusalem.

Illustration:

It is an unusual thing to hear of a King being troubled by a babe.

It shows how often small things often bring many grief.

- a. Herod feared losing his throne.
- b. Jerusalem feared because of the threat of contention.

2. Many today are the same and say:

- a. Don't bring that religion here to me.
 1. The Gospel interferes with their sin.

3. Characters Who Are Troubled.

A. Hypocrite (Herod)

1. Tried to act interested.

B. Men of Learning. (scribes and chief priests)

1. Told Herod where but didn't consider of going themselves. (self-righteous)

4. None of These Who Were Nigh Sought Christ

Close:

Lord bring the far ones near.

Lord bring the nigh ones really nigh.

Those who have heard over and over and continued to reject the truth.