

A LIFE FULL OF FAITH --The Book on Bible Facts
Written by A. G. Etterman

The Coming Dawn

We find stars shining on the darkest of nights and even though the darkest period is just before the dawn they are not without the stars. We read, yes, more than read about that star in heaven that appeared when the wise men of the east looked for the dawning of a new day. There was a difference in this particular dawn because before them stood a special star, a larger star, a star more radiant than ever, a star beaming with life for lost mankind than ever before had been seen.

What a struggle we have through the darkness waiting for the dawn, yet long, long ago the shepherds and the wise men looked forward to a better understanding of a hope and rest never found in this world. Like of old, today this star still points us to the birth of that Christ (the anointed one of God) born on at a particular moment in time representing the greatest of all gifts given to mankind from God. Oh! let us reverence this coming day of Christ's birth! (it is not wrong to celebrate the birth, we just can't do as the heathen do) Let us shower not worldly gifts, but gifts of divine spiritual blessings, those of kind words, love, and smiles telling the story of the Christ child who came to save that which was lost. Let us turn our souls to those things that are everlasting and shall not fail or be destroyed.

MATTHEW 2:1-10

1. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
2. Saying, 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.
3. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
5. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
6. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
7. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
9. 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.

10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Great doctrine we find from the old timers. We as God's people can do more than we think in the celebration of Christ's birth. We might even hold special services on that day singing songs that promote God's gift to mankind, we can send seasons greetings. We can tell the story of God's greatest gift through a play which can be incorporated with the Children's service, Children's Sunday School, etc. However we might choose to celebrate or honor the Lord, let's think of what a special day on that Ninth hour of Prayer on the 25th day of December when he was born and when we hold our services.

The best gift anyone can receive is to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, confess your sins to God in Jesus name and you will certainly receive a gift that is worthwhile. Speaking of gifts, let us remember Jesus does not give as the world gives, because the things of the world perish. Let us lay up treasures in heaven that are safe and secure. You will then be glad forever more.

What a coincidence some may think that eight days later the baby Jesus was circumcised according to the scriptures. Luke 2:21 "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." That would bring us to January 1st (New Years day). Of course, we can't celebrate as the heathen do, but we can honor God on these particular days forever and ever. AMEN