

Hope



*The Meaning Behind The
Star*

By

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The Meaning behind the Star

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him..."

"...they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to

***Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* —Matthew 2:1-11**

When the fictional character Kal-El, last son of Krypton, better known as the super hero Superman, was asked what the “S” stood for in his emblem, his reply was “It is not an “S” it is a symbol of hope.” Until that question was asked, it was always assumed that the “S” stood for Superman. After all it was a big red “S” that he bore on his chest and on the back of his cape. What else could it possibly mean? No one would have ever guessed that the “S” stood for so much more. Even in a fictional world where super heroes were possible, there was still a need for Hope. So it is in the real world, here and now more than ever there is a need for hope.

In 2020 humanity has been battling for its very survival against a foe so dangerous that it has brought the most powerful nation in the modern world, America, to its knees. In its wake, this foe, the corona virus, has taken over two hundred Fifty thousand lives and counting, while holding millions more as hostage. Not only have countless lives been

lost, but the effects of this virus has caused massive unemployment and devastated our economy.

The struggle for survival has not been localized to just America, no the war is being waged globally and the greatest minds from around the world have been tasked with the challenge to find an antidote to defeat this insidious foe. Even though it appears that antidotes are coming, until they do come, million of lives remain in danger and while the out going administration is quick to take credit for fast tracking the production of these vaccines he is doing nothing to help safeguard the country by encouraging them to remain vigilant in the practicing of all recommended safety measures. People are dying by the thousands daily and he is having parties at the Whitehouse, thus the need for Hope.

Hope is a powerful force. When hope is present, it has the ability to turn exhaustion into strength, fear into bravery, chaos into calm and sorrow into joy. When people have hope there is nothing they can't do. But let a people become bereft of hope, then it won't matter how fortified they may be or what

arsenal may be at their disposal it won't mean anything. It was hope that ignited the Star of Bethlehem. It was hope that drew the three wise men from the east to come and witness for themselves the baby boy who was born of a virgin birth and though he was born in a common, lowly manger, the brilliant light of the Star revealed his royal identity as the one born King of the Jews.

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him...”

Matthew 2:1

The prophets had foretold the coming of this miraculous child in Isaiah 7:14 *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* And Isaiah further prophesied in Chapter 9:6&7 *“For unto us a child is born, unto us*

a son is given; and the governor meant shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end,” This Star in the East sparked a great deal of interest and intrigue. Could this be he who was spoke of old? Is this Star announcing the coming of the Messiah? You can imagine the excitement being generated by this bright shining Star!

“...they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”—Matthew 2:1-1 “What was it about seeing the Star that brought them such great joy? Certainly without the Star they never would have found him. The fact that the Star

led them to the baby King was enough to give them joy, but it was more than that. The Star signified a fulfillment of God's promise. It was Hope in the midst of darkness. The government was corrupt and oppressive. King Herod, out of fear of his government being overthrown and his losing his throne, wanted the new born babe dead. The people were in need of a change. The star symbolized that a change was not just coming, but that the change was here at last! ***When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.***” They rejoiced because the Star gave them Hope! Hope was The Meaning behind the Star. What Hope? Hope that the world was going to change. Hope that there would finally be light in the midst of their darkness! Hope that Immanuel would fulfill the prophecy that God was with them! Hope that through Jesus the world would be saved! Hope is the meaning behind the Star. Herod could see the handwriting on the wall. He knew that now Hope had arrived and he knew his days were numbered.

We know that even today with our country being ravaged by this lethal virus things seem dark and bleak. Just like Nero, ruler of Ancient Rome, fiddled while Rome burned, many our government rulers are partying while Americans are needlessly dying by the thousands every day. All is not lost my brothers and sisters. We are not bereft of Hope! “Weeping endureth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning! For we still have hope! That same Star that shined bright in the East is burning bright here in the West. Its brilliance gives us hope that God is still with us and that He will see us through this. We still have hope that we will come out of this more than conquerors, valiant victors, soldiers of the cross, Children of the King, because Hope is the meaning behind the Star!