

I. Review

Last week we looked at our tenth foolish question that the fools in life will ask you. As you know we have been coming through the book of Psalms chapter by chapter and we came to Psalms 14:1 where it says, “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...*” We have been going through all of the questions that the skeptics, the atheists, the agnostics, and the fools as Psalms 14:1 says, are going to ask us. The questions that they are going to throw at you for the purpose of discrediting the Bible, you and anything to do with God. My goal for this church and you is for you to have the ability with the word of God, as the Bible says, to answer any man who asketh, the reason of the hope that is within you. I want you to be smarter than the problem. The fools are definitely the problem. I showed you this back in our very first study in I Kings 18 with Ahab and Elijah.

Last week we looked at the first coming of Christ and dealt with the question of Christ’s birth. The fact that Jesus was not born on December 25th which is commonly believed and taught. The question that I have been asked was that He wasn’t born on December 25th, which He wasn’t. I wanted you to understand every detail of it. I am not interested in just teaching you things about the Bible. There must be an exactness when it comes to the word of God. An ability to have an understanding of all these things you are going to be asked, if you to continue to grow and do what God has called you to do.

We looked at three great truths in dealing with this question.

1.) The real meaning of Christmas.

I showed you that the whole idea of Christ being born on December 25th has nothing to do with the Bible. I gave you a couple of really good reference books that goes back to Old Testament Baal worship. Which comes into Christianity and gets “Christianized” with Constantine in the 3rd century when he starts the Roman Catholic church. I showed you the idea of Santa Claus as portrayed to the world as a counterfeit Christ. Here is a rule that you will always want to follow and never forget.

Rule #1 the devil will always bring the counterfeit first before the real one shows up.

That is a spiritual rule of history, the devil, God, and the Bible. You can see this from all the way back in Genesis. It was Cain before it was Abel. It was the tribulation and the false kingdom before the millennium and the real kingdom. The anti-Christ shows up first and then the real Christ at the second coming.

2.) The real day and time of His birth.

I gave you a complete study of His birth based on the Bible and showed you that without a doubt it is the feast of tabernacles. Thursday night I will show you feasts and lay all of this out. It is an

incredible study. Clarence Larkin has the greatest book on the feasts in the Bible. Bullinger also has a good layout on it too. The feast of tabernacles is key to the birth of Christ. It's the key to the creation in Genesis 1 and to the second coming of Christ. I showed you the eight feasts in the seven months and I will lay all this out on Thursday night (9/26/2024).

3.) How do we deal with these pagan holidays that have been turned into Christian holidays?

How do we deal with these holidays? We are not going to change it. In our society and our culture, we use things like this as an open door of opportunity to get the truth and the word of God out. Most of this you will not be able to use directly. But once you understand it yourself, then you can use the material to work it in with whoever you are working with. That is the key.

I showed you how John 1:17 talks about grace verses truth. *“For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”* Then a couple of Thursday nights ago, on the letter of the law verses the spirit of the law. When you are looking at Christmas and the birth of Christ, **how we deal with it is we apply grace to that to reach people.** The hard line is not always the right line. You must never deviate from the truth, but you must use grace to get the truth to the people you are trying to reach. This is what I want you to learn.

I showed you Acts 21 as the great model and 1 Corinthians 9:20 where Paul says, *“And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law.”* We use what has been ingrained into our culture even though we know that it isn't true and has nothing to do with the Bible. You got to be able to have the truth on your side but use the truth through grace to reach people. Once they get saved and plugged in you can teach them further. But it must start at the door of salvation. Using the world system, against itself.

Get these questions in your playbook as a reference of material that you can always fall back on and never forget. Deepen your base and get your foundation developed even deeper. Develop your skills. You can become everything that God wants you to be. It's the difference in priorities. It's the difference of us in these last days seeing what our job is and then doing what we need to do. We are laborers together and the only way we are going to do what God wants us to do to reach our community, to reach the people in your life, your friends, is to understand the foolish questions that people are going to ask you. So, you can be smarter than the problem.

In Hebrews 5:12-14 he starts out by saying the time you should be teachers one has to again teach you the fundamentals of the faith. You got to start all over again. He talks about exercising your senses. The way you exercise your senses, develop your base, deepen your foundation, is by reason of use. Using the word of God. **Knowing the Bible will be of no benefit to you until you use what you have learned and apply it in somebody else's life.**

12. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13. For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:12-14

The Bible says that by exercising your senses by reason of use, you get discernment. You now can discern between good and evil. You know what is right and what is wrong. That is the letter of the law, right and wrong. But you get the discernment to use the grace, the spirit of the law with the letter of the law. This is what I want to get into your life. This is what is going to change your life.

Today we are going to look at another question that you will get down. This too will deal with the birth of Christ.

II. Question #11 The Bible never tells how many wise men came to worship Jesus, just the three gifts.

The Bible never tells how many wise men came from the east to worship Jesus. It just mentions three gifts given to Him. This is a great question to learn that deals with the birth of Christ. This is a great lesson to learn how unsaved people, the fools, look at it. But also the fools as Christians, don't know any more about it than they do.

This question, like all questions that the fools are going to ask you shows us how 1 Corinthians 2:14 is so true. It says, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.*" If there is any place that shows you that verse in reality, it will be in the questions that people will ask you. They can have the truth right in front of them. They can have the truth that will develop into an incredible study of depth to show us key doctrines in the Bible that are so vital. But they can't see it. The expression, you can't see the forest for the trees. This is true of many of God's people too. No ability to use the Bible. The hallmark of the Laodicean church found in Revelation 3:17 are five things that he says about that church.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This is the church period that we are living in today, that we are seeing all around us.

- 1.) They are Wretched
- 2.) They are Miserable

These two together show you what is really wrong with Christianity today, there is no real joy in their life. They get up, go to work, raise a family, go to church but it is all meaningless. Nothing gives them the desire or joy that only God can put in our lives.

- 3.) They are Poor

They are spiritually bankrupt. There is nothing in their heart of the word of God that they have put on their account. They have never hidden the word of God in their heart.

4.) They are Blind

No discernment. Once again, that is 1 Corinthians 2:14. They can't see anything that God is doing. No vision from God. Most of the things that people come away with knowing from the Bible is not things that they learned themselves. They heard a preacher lay something out and that is how they got it. They never sat down and opened up the word of God and did the studying themselves. That is what makes the difference.

5.) They are Naked

This is a reference to the judgment seat of Christ. We saw this a couple of weeks ago at a Thursday night Bible Study. I thank the Lord and praise the Lord for those that have followed the advice that the holy spirit of God gave this church in Revelation chapter 3:18. The **first** thing he says is, "***I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire...***" This is what so many of you have done. You are paying the price for ministry of what you are doing for the Lord. And there will be a price to pay. A price to pay with your family, with your friends, and from the world in general. The **second** thing he says is that he is going to give them the true riches. The true riches will be the word of God that He gives you that will clothe you at the judgement seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 5). The **third** thing is that he anoints thine eyes with eyesalve. Eyesalve is the word of God, through the holy Spirit of God. That is the key that makes you different from the average Christian. If we are ever going to stand tall at the judgment seat of Christ it will be because we do the work now. My job is to prepare you for that.

A.) Luke 2:1-17 The Birth of Jesus

Let's anoint our eyes with the eyesalve of the holy Spirit of God. I want to look at two key passages based on this foolish question. I want you to get these clearly laid out in your Bible as the content and context of both of these passages. Our first one is Luke 2.

1. *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*
2. *[And] this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*
3. *And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*
4. *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*
5. *To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*
6. *And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*
7. *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*
8. *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*
9. *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

10. *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

11. *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

12. *And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

13. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

14. *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

15. *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

16. *And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

17. *And when they had seen [it], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

Mark this passage in your Bible by using a red China marker from verses 1-17 and note that this is the defining chapter on the birth of Christ. I want you to see the difference between these two passages and the great doctrines that come out of it. The exactness of the Bible and how important that is. **You will always want to pay attention to detail, which is the key to learning.** That comes from **a trained eye**. In Luke chapter 3 it shows Christ's genealogy as the son of man. The birth is in chapter two and in chapter 3 you are given His genealogy which runs Him back to Adam. There are two genealogies in your Bible concerning Christ; Luke chapter 3 and Matthew 1. The genealogy in Luke 3 is His human line that goes through Mary back to Adam. This is the genealogy of Christ as the son of man, His human line. Why was Luke chosen to give this account of his physical birth and genealogy? The answer is because Luke is a medical doctor. God chose a physician to give us a medical account of His physical birth.

We also see God moving in a direction and the devil moving in a direction to stop it. Here comes the devil's first attempt to get Christ out of the way. The Bible says she is with child, ready to be delivered. The devil has his cohorts in Rome, Caesar Augustus, to declare a tax that they must go the city they were born in to pay the tax. So, Joseph must go from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is around ninety miles. Mary must travel 90 miles on a donkey over the roughest roads or walking. It had to take them several days to get there. To put it into context, the 90 miles would be from Kansas City to Iola, Kansas. It could take her around 9-10 miles a day. The devil wanted Mary to lose that baby.

Rule #2 Every time God moves through history to do something, the devil moves to stop it.

When Mary and Joseph finally get to Bethlehem, there is no room in the inn. After a 90-mile trip on a donkey or walking, now they have to stay in a stable. It is here where she has her baby, in a manger.

Notice how this story has to do with the booths in the feast of tabernacles. In the feast of tabernacles, they build these booths to dwell in which is a picture of the stable that He was going to be born in. Prophetically the feast of tabernacles is where Christ would come and tabernacle

among us. Now, this is the story of His actual birth. There are no wise men, no star of Bethlehem. The greatest thing that he tells us is the baby is wrapped in swaddling clothes. That is grave clothes which indicate that this baby is connected with death.

I don't want you to see me or you as the Grinch that stole Christmas, but the Bible believing Christian that understands Christmas. On every Christmas card with the nativity scene, you will see Mary, Joseph and the baby in a stable and the three wise men standing with their gifts. There over the manger is the star of Bethlehem. From the Bible account, nothing could be farther from the truth. But the story of the wise men whether there is three or thirty, is another one of the great doctrines found in the Bible that has nothing to do with His birth. Notice another connection to the feast of tabernacles is that the shepherds had their flocks in the field. They would not be doing that in the middle of winter. This is September. Shepherds do not take their flock out in the middle of December to graze when there is nothing to graze.

B.) Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men Find Jesus

The confusion of His birth and the wise men will be cleared up by understanding this second passage. Turn to Matthew 2. I suggest that you use your red China marker to outline all the way down to verse 12

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.*

In verse 3 when Herod hears about a King of the Jews, he knows enough about the Bible to know that is a threat to the Roman Empire. He expected the Jews to know about this. Because in verse 4 he gathered all the priests and scribes and the people together and he is asking the Jews about this. So, he expects the Jews to know the answer. But he is now terrified because if this is true, very shortly he is going to be out of a job.

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. **This is a reference to Christ.***
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.*

Rome was not interested in worshipping Him at all. As it turns out in the story it is one of the biggest lies that the Roman Catholic church will ever tell you. They were interested in getting rid of Him.

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.

11. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him **gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.**

12. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

➤ Matthew 2 Jesus is a young child in a house NOT in a manger

Let me show you the value of a trained eye. Verse 1 says, "... when Jesus was born in Bethlehem..." The structure of that English sentence would indicate the time around or near His birth, but not an exact date. If a trained eye examined Matthew's account and Luke's account, they would see that they are NOT the same event nor the same time period. Notice in Luke, Jesus is found as a baby. But in Matthew 2:8 He is a young child. Most people think that is the same thing. Never take that liberty with the Bible. These are two different time periods. In Luke 2 we find Him in a manger and in Matthew 2:11 we find Him in a house.

You don't know exactly how old He is here in Matthew 2, but I will give you a clue. He has got to be at least two years old. Because in Matthew 2:16, Herod said he wanted to worship Him, but the wise men don't tell him where the child is at. So, what he does is he kills every baby in Bethlehem two years and under. That tells you Herod had a good idea of how old he was because somebody had given him the timeframe of the birth.

➤ Matthew 2 is connected to a star

The other thing I want you to see is in our story here in Matthew is connected to a star. Most notably the star of Bethlehem, the most famous star in history. The fools and their explanation of this star,..... it can't be anything supernatural from God. It has to be something that science can explain, and man can understand. So, these fools when reading the account in the Bible they take for granted that the people that are writing this account are stupid. They saw something in the sky, but because they are stupid and unlearned, they didn't know what it was, so they said it was a star. Which leaves a lot of latitude. The fools of the world (unsaved and saved) want to interpret for idiots and come up with a **plausible explanation for the star**. Let's start with this. Idiots did not write the Bible. The Holy Spirit of God wrote the Bible. Idiots read the Bible, me being number one. Do you think the Holy Spirit of God didn't know the difference between the supernatural thing that was going on? Because the science world will tell you that it was a supernova. A supernova is a star out there that would begin to implode in on itself. It is a star that begins to come down to its death, so to speak. It is burning up what is left of the hydrogen, and it becomes so bright, that it may be a second magnitude star or fourth magnitude star which is your average star brightness. That will get so bright that it is now a first magnitude. In fact, in 1275 in China there was a supernova of a star that got so bright you could see it during the daytime. So, they say that these wise men saw this out there and they thought it was something supernatural. But they say it was just a supernova.

The **second plausible explanation** they will give you is that it was a conjunction between the two planets Venus and Jupiter. When you see Venus at night it is the brightest object in the sky. When it is up it is brilliantly bright. Jupiter is right up there with it. What happens in astronomy through time is that as the planets move through the solar system or the constellations, they will come in together, what is called a conjunction. A conjunction is when two stars, in this case two planets get so close together they look like they are one. So, the science world, the fools, tell us that it was probably a conjunction. In fact, in 3 AD in their astronomic record there was a conjunction of those two planets right around that same time. So, see the devil always figures it out and he gives you a lie to believe if you want one.

The **other plausible explanation** they will try to tell you is that it was a comet coming through and the wise men were not as wise as we think. It wasn't any of these things. But that is what the world tries to do with anything that God does that is supernatural. **The trained eye** with a dash of common sense **will notice that this star is a guiding star**. A supernova is in a fixed spot. It doesn't move. It moves as the Earth rotates, but it doesn't move left or right. It will move east or west. A comet will have an orbit that it follows. The planets will have an orbit that they follow. **This star was unlike anything, it guided them!** It was a guiding star, Luke 2:5-10. This star not only guided them, but it led them right to where the Christ child was. It was over His house, not the manger.

➤ Matthew 2 Not everybody saw this star, only the wise men saw His star

Another thing that these fools don't see because they don't have **a trained eye** is that **not everybody saw this star**. Herod didn't see it and there is no record of all kinds of people saying that they saw it. Only the wise men saw it. The next thing we need to see is that this star couldn't have been a conjunction because everybody would have seen it. If it would have been a nova, everybody would have seen that too. If it would have been a comet, everybody would have saw it, Herod included. This star guided these wise men right to where Christ was and not everybody saw it.

They are called wise men. It is interesting because the Bible tells us over in verse two that when the wise men see it, they have biblical insight that nobody else has. Because immediately when they see it, they tell them we have seen **His star**. They immediately connected it with Christ.

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.

You see if you don't have **a trained eye**, you miss things like this. While everybody is telling you what it isn't, **these wise men saw it and immediately when they saw that star they knew it was His star**. Why is that? In verse 10 the Bible says when they saw it, they rejoiced. There was a rejoicing in seeing the star, His star. This star of Bethlehem was an angel. In fact, it's the angel of the Lord leading the wise men from the east to the Christ child.

In the Bible you will find that angels are called stars. Revelation 9:1 says, "*And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*" Jesus is called in 2 Peter 1:19, the **day star** which will arise in your hearts. You

are going to find in Revelation 2:28 that He is called the *morning star*, dealing with the second coming of Christ. This is the star of wonder, star bright, what we call the star of Bethlehem, was the angel of the Lord guiding the wise men to the Christ child. It wasn't a comet, or a conjunction. It wasn't a nova or some natural happening. It was a supernatural happening that God gave these wise men when they saw it, they knew it was His star. How did they know that?

➤ Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

When we looked at our first passage in Luke, we are dealing with His actual recorded birth through Doctor Luke. You have His genealogy of the son of man, His human genealogy coming up through Mary. The **trained eye** in Matthew 1 you have His genealogy going back through the kingly line. Remember there are two. This line shows you that Jesus Christ is the king of the Jews which was prophesized. In Matthew 2:2 when these wise men come looking for a king, they say "... *Where is he that is born King of the Jews?*" They knew exactly who they were talking about and knew exactly that there was a star connected with His birth. So be sure and get this down. Luke will lay Him out as the son of man, His first coming. But Matthew will lay Him out as the king of the Jews to Israel. These are two different passages that give you two different aspects.

At Christmas time you will get Christmas cards from people that have the manger with the star and the Christ child with the three wise men. If you send me one of these, it's going on the mantel. I am not going to throw them away because I understand it. Christmas is the time of the year that most people associate with Christ, even though it isn't. Paul said in Philippians 1:18, in pretense or truth, preach Christ. I can take a bogus scenario like this that everybody else thinks that God is involved, (but I know he is not) and use that to get them saved. Then I get them in the church, and we get them disciplined. I don't want to be the Grinch that stole Christmas, I want to be the Bible believing Christian who understands Christmas!

Let's look at the three wise men. What we want to see and understand is, were there only three wise men or more? Somebody says, could there been more than three? Of course! But the **trained eye!** **Why did God only tell us about three?** I take from that there were only three, but I am not dogmatic about it.

Why are they called wise men? In verse 2 they had something going on with the wisdom aspect because the first question that is asked in Matthew is where is He that is born King of the Jews? How did they know about this manger and this baby that was to be the king of the Jews? They knew exactly who they were looking for. The first question asked in the New Testament in Matthew sets the context of Matthew and sets the context of Christ in Matthew as the king of the Jews.

➤ The wise men are from the east (traveling east to west)

The next thing I want you to see is that the **wise men are from the east** (Matthew 2:1). This shows you how reading and believing your Bible will give you insight that scholars and fools will never have. These wise men are from the east. The Bible says this is exactly where Daniel was when he wrote the book of Daniel. So, they are all from the same area back east. Probably

out of Babylon. The second thing to see is that **they are traveling east to west**. In your Bible you should already know that God's every move in the Bible was from east to west. That is a good move. Every move in the Bible from west to east is a bad move. When Adam and Eve got kicked out of the garden after they sinned, they got kicked out west to east. When they went into the holy of holies to make the sacrifice as the high priest, you went in east to west. So, these wise men are going the right direction, they are coming from the right place. Here is how they did it. We know for sure they had the Old Testament, and they had the book of Daniel. In Daniel back in the east when they were studying, they came across chapter 9 which deals with Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. When you figure it up in the book of Daniel 9 you get the very day and the very year that He is going to have a triumphal entry. So, it is a question of doing the math based on the data in the Bible of His triumphal entry.

In Numbers 4:3-4 and 1 Samuel 2:35 they would have known if they were familiar with those books, that Christ would have to be 30 years of age before He could officially be named the Messiah. So, they could do the math of Daniel 9 and put the numbers together. If that wasn't enough from Numbers 24:17 they would know to look for a star because in that passage the king, the Messiah, you are told is going to be connected to a star.

I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a <u>Star out of Jacob</u> , and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. Numbers 24:17
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The wise men with just an Old Testament and believing what they read, could have figured out the birth of Christ within a year or two. They actually got it within that time frame, from a manger to a house. They weren't at the manger, but they were there when He was two years old. Maybe it took them two years to get there I don't know, but all they had to do was to do the math.

Now fast forward to 2024, today you and me. Wise men today who just believe the Bible that God has given you can figure out the second coming of Christ, just the same way that they did at the first coming of Christ. You have everything in your Bible to get about the second coming what they got about the first coming.

You have Matthew 24, what more do you need? Revelation 1,2 and 3. Add to the mix, Daniel 2, Daniel 9, Daniel 7, Genesis 1 through 3 and 2 Peter 3:8, Matthew 24:37 and Luke 17:28. You got enough ingredients there that you will make the biggest apple pie you ever saw in your life. Don't sit under the apple tree with anybody else but me, he said.

I saw this on a card one time. It said, **wise men still seek Him**. That is so true. The wise men of the first coming of Christ could have seen it and understood it exactly down to a one or two-year period. You and I as a wise man with the word of God can figure up the date and do the math from those verses and passages I just gave you. You can find out the times and the seasons of when He is coming.

One other thing for your Catholic friends. In verse 11, the Bible says, "*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, **and fell down, and***

worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” They fell down and worshipped HIM, not Mary. You can use that and then take them over to Luke 1:46-55 Mary says my heart shall rejoice in God my Savior. Notice how the Bible always gives you the whole complete picture. He shows you the young child. He knows there is a church out there that makes Mary higher than Christ and makes her equal with Christ. So, he just sticks this in there for anybody with **a trained eye** who is paying attention showing that the wise men were wise enough to know to worship HIM and not her.

➤ The Bible’s focus is on the three gifts that the wise men bring to Jesus

The Bible tells us about three wise men. There could have been more, maybe. But let’s not miss what God wants to show us about the three. Who cares if there was more or if there wasn’t.

There are places in the Bible where God will have a number of things, but He only focuses on maybe three of those things. Sometimes He has a multitude of people but only focuses on three. Look at the twelve apostles. But the key to the apostles were three men, Peter, James and John. In Genesis 4-5 the Bible tells us that Adam lived 930 years, and he had sons and daughters. That is a lot of sons and daughters, but the Bible only focuses on three. Why is that? He only focuses on the three because there is something special that He wants to teach us about those three. Don’t miss these connections. He is trying to show us something. **Fools will always focus on the wrong thing.** When it comes to the three wise men the Bible’s focus is not on the wise men, but the gifts that they bring. If you miss this, you are out in left field. Another incredible study for **the trained eye.** The gifts they bring will open to us tremendous doctrinal and spiritual significance.

➤ The gifts represent the three offices – king, priest & prophet

When you study the king of the Jews, the Lord Jesus, you will find that as king He holds three offices. He is a king, a priest and a prophet. Only two men in the Bible hold that office. One of them is the Lord Jesus Christ who is a king, a priest and a prophet. The other one is David. This what got Saul into trouble. This is why God killed Saul and took the kingdom from him. Saul was a king and a prophet. But he wasn’t a priest and when he offered the sacrifice, he violated one of God’s rules and God killed him for it. When the wise men from the east with the book of Daniel and the Old Testament passages come to seek the king of the Jews, they know right where He is at and who He is. They bring three gifts that represent those three offices. Because He is the king they bring gold, they bring frankincense, and they bring mirth. Gold in 1 Kings 10:18, represents a king. In Exodus 30:34-38 frankincense will represent the office of the priesthood. Deuteronomy 18:15-17 and in Matthew 21:11 you will find mirth will represent the fact that He is a prophet. That is why when you get over to Deuteronomy 18 you will read about the prophet being born to die. That will tie into the swaddling clothes. When you lay out these two accounts and get them into their proper context in your Bible, you now have a gold mine of truth. A wealth of true riches that will unlock the first coming of Christ and unlock the second coming of Christ. Once you understand and see how it lays out you can use it when you deal with whoever asks you the question. Because now you are smarter than the problem, and they are the problem.

Taking the truth of the word of God and not destroying them because their teaching is wrong. Using grace and truth, letter of the law, and spirit of the law. Lovingly using the truth that you have through the grace that God gave you and try to bring them to a real understanding of Christ coming to this earth.

III. Question #12 Bob do you believe in fate?

There are things that come into your life that you have no control over. That is the definition of fate. The happenings in life you can't change or control. In Ecclesiastes 2:17-20 this is called philosophy of life, called fatalism. Fatalism is where you can't control anything in life. You have a fatalist approach, and everything is going to go bad because that is the way it does.

➤ The unsaved person has no control over anything in their life

Let me be clear, I believe in fate for any unsaved man or woman because an unsaved person has no control over anything in their life. They are in a crapshoot of life. They roll the dice on everything that they do. They may be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and something may happen. They may get cancer or get some terminal disease that they have no control over it and no control on how to deal with it. Ecclesiastes 3:19 says:

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all [is] vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

This is an unsaved man or woman. For an unsaved man or woman, you can't change anything in your life. You may be able to change some things physically like get a better job, a bigger house, a nicer car. You can go to Alcoholics Anonymous if you are an alcoholic and you can get clean of alcohol but at the end of the day you are dying and going to hell. Nothing changes, it appears that it changes but fate has you in its grasp and fate is the fact that all go to one place. That is an unsaved man.

➤ For the child of God, fate will never be in your life

Everything in my life and your life is from God and for a reason and purpose.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

There is a reason for everything in your life and why something happens. You may not see it and you may not understand it. You may be out in left field and just think wow why did this happen? **If you are saved there are no accidents in your life.** No accidents, from a flat tire to the water heater going out in your house, to the roof being blown out. There is a reason for it. You may never see it, or you may not want to see it. **But he says all things!** This is the only time I am ever going to go to the Greek. When you go to the Greek, you know what all things mean? **All things!**

Psalms 37:23 says, “*The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*”

God orders your steps every day of your life. Most of God’s people never see it. They never understand it. Some of them don’t even believe it, but it is true.

God takes care of Christians who are fools because you belong to Him. Even though you may not recognize His hand in your life, He made a deal with you. The day you got saved He made a deal with you that He was going to get you home to heaven. Now he may get you there in a wheelchair or an iron lung or a car wreck, but He is going to fulfill that.

I have often thought about the boys that go into combat. I watched many times the movie Saving Private Ryan. The opening scene is about the boys in the 29th infantry going off those boats onto the shores of Normandy. I thought to myself there are two kinds of boys that went ashore that day. Some of them were saved and some of them were lost. As a Christian how should you look at that? To an unsaved man, its fate. He runs off the ramp and turns this way or that and he gets a bullet. It is fate for him.

But for the child of God in the same situation the ramp comes down and it is only the ones who had a relationship with God and their attitude towards this should be, Lord, I am yours. You have saved me. You saved me from hell. You got me through everything in my life. Lord, I didn’t choose to be here, but I obeyed because Romans 13 said to obey my government. That ramp door is going to go down and I am turning my spirit and body into your hands. Lord, you know they want to kill me. Lord, you know I belong to you, and you saved me for a purpose. If you want to end that today and bring me home to heaven, I am okay with that. But Lord I am asking if you want me to get through this you are going to have to move the bullets out of the way. Because the Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered from the Lord. When I come off that ramp, I am a good man because I trusted in you. So, order my steps. **God will get you through or God will take you home. Either way you are okay.** You see it is the difference of understanding fate. To the extreme, the ramp going down and everybody gets shot to pieces or understanding that all things work together for good, and the steps of a good man are ordered from the Lord. When that ramp goes down, God’s got your back.

IV. Summary

Let me ask you this, what about tomorrow when spiritually the ramp goes down. You walk out of the house, and you are back into the world. What is going to make the difference? How is God going to be in your life so that He can use you? This is what I am trying to show you. This is my goal for you. This is what I want to do through the Patterns of Human Nature Class. Notice I am preaching out of my pattern notebook. I am using it just like you will use yours. We are going to work together as a team to be the best we can be for God. It is my job to give you the information and it is your job to do something with it.