

The King of the Jews

Rev. B. Labee - *Matthew 2:2b (middle part)*
(Christmas)

Sing: Psalter 50

Read: Matthew 2: 1-12

Sing: Psalter 448: 3, 4

Sing: Psalter 198: 6, 7

Sing: Psalter 183: 3, 4

Congregation, in this sermon we wish to consider what we read in Matthew 2 verse 2, *“Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”*

These words direct our attention to: The King of the Jews.

1. The King of the Jews pointed out; we find this especially in the first two verses.
2. The King of the Jews searched out; we find that in the third to the tenth verses.
3. The King of the Jews worshiped, as we read this in verses 11 and 12.

1. The King of the Jews pointed out.

Congregation, it is a remarkable history which Matthew narrates. Quite different from the account we read in the Gospel of Luke about the events surrounding the crib. In Luke 2 we find the story of the simple Jewish shepherds, the story of the God-fearing Simeon and the story of the aged Anna. Notice how these stories point to simple people who knew something of the fear of God.

But here in Matthew’s account, we meet rich people, probably heathens, who came from far away to bow before the King of the Jews. In this way something of the Kingdom of King Jesus becomes visible, a Kingdom which extends beyond the Jewish kingdom as it also includes the land of the Gentiles. It extends among all sorts of peoples, languages, nations and race. Something of that glory radiates from the story we have before us today.

The one thing that stands out is this: they all come at the feet of Jesus. Have you, young or old, been brought at the feet of Jesus through the Christmas preaching which has sounded in your midst? I could also ask you another question. *How* did you come at the feet of Jesus? That can be in very different ways as we notice the differences between Luke 2 and Matthew 2. God's children themselves are different, and the Lord leads them in different ways.

The shepherds, boys and girls, received a visit from heaven. An angel told them that Jesus had been born and showed them the way that they had to go. Simeon, that God-fearing man, had been continuously waiting for the moment that the Lord would lead him. Finally that moment came and, led by God's Spirit, he was brought into the temple. Anna, that old widow who departed not from the temple but served God with fastings and prayers, was there when the Savior was brought to the temple on the day of His presentation. And she was favored to see Him and bore witness of the born King of the Jews to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

It is striking that with the wise men everything was different. The Lord spake, as it were, the language that suited them. Boys and girls, if you want to become a pilot or policeman or whatever, then you have to learn a lot and not everyone qualifies for that job. There are certain requirements you have to meet. But now the wonderful thing: in God's Kingdom it is different. No requirements are set. You do not have to meet human standards. God's children do differ quite a bit, some of them are poor, others are rich, there are learned ones and simple ones. But whatever their differences may be, they have this one thing in common: the Lord has spoken in their life, in a language that suited their case. And that is the language they speak. They have learned it at Jesus' feet.

If you read, for instance, the books of John Bunyan, you will notice that he was a very simple man. Young people, you must read his books: "The Pilgrim's Progress", "Christiana" and "The Holy War." Wonderful books! God used this simple tinker in His service. The learned John Owen lived at the same time. And I hope, young people, that you will read his works too because it is worth the effort. He was a very learned man, a sincere divine. John Bunyan and John Owen

both spoke the same language -- the one in his simplicity and the other in his learning -- because they were both brought to Jesus' feet.

The wise men saw a star. God spoke to them in a remarkable way: through a sign. They said, *“We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.”* These astronomers, or maybe they were astrologers, had been gazing at the heavens and had seen something that thrilled them deeply. This star! This star could only mean one thing: a King had been born, a King among the Jews.

However, and I want to emphasize this, they were not satisfied with merely gazing at the sign, at the star. They didn't look at the star and say, "A King has been born, now all is OK." No. The sign may have brought them to the written Word, but for sure it brought them to the Word which was made flesh.

The Lord is able to use something very special in your life to arrest you, to make a change in your life. That may even be a dream but that dream alone will never suffice. The Lord may stop you in your path by someone's death, the passing away of someone dear to you. But conversion is by the Word and the Spirit. The star itself didn't suffice for these wise men. However, it was a means. It triggered them and set them in motion. Once they had seen that star their hearts became restless.

Did they know the Scriptures? Did they know something of Balaam's prophecy? Some expositors assume this. Balaam was also a man from the east. He had prophesied about a star and this prophecy was probably recorded and passed on from one wise man to the other. Balaam had said, *“There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel”* (Numbers 24:17).

It is, however, more likely what other expositors suggest, namely, that they knew of Daniel. At the court of Babel and later on in the Persian kingdom, Daniel had been the leader of all the wise and learned men. In these places of the east Daniel had spoken about the empires which would emerge, the golden empire with Nebuchadnezzar as the most distinguished emperor. Next would be the silver kingdom, followed by the copper kingdom, then the kingdom of iron, and iron mixed with miry clay. And then Daniel spoke of the stone, *“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be*

destroyed. (...) Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold” (Daniel 2:44- 45).

Whatever the case, be it Balaam or Daniel, these wise men set out on their journey because they had been pointed to the King of the Jews. We know little about that journey but we can form an idea of it when we look it up on a map. Boys and girls, you might have a map in your Bible. The ‘east’ as it is mentioned in our text, must have been the eastern Levant. It must have been the area where Abraham once came from. Maybe they made the journey through Ur of the Chaldees and Babel.

It must have been a long and weary journey, made all the heavier because of the unbearable heat of the day and the freezing cold of the night. Undoubtedly they will have traveled by camel, the ship of the desert, and they would have traveled as a group. We don't know how many there were. The Roman Catholic church assumes there were three kings but Scripture is silent on this. We only read about wise men. Thus it remains a mystery for us. This we do know: they made that terribly long journey, a journey that took several weeks, through the burning heat of the day and the cold of the night.

When we consider what these people were prepared to endure, doesn't that put us to shame? They knew very little, yet they offered up everything, putting aside their work, sacrificing everything to go seek the King of the Jews.

Congregation, are you prepared to seek this King? We know so much. How often hasn't He been pointed out to you? The Apostle Peter writes, *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy.”* That is much, much more than a star, the sign they received (although we don't know exactly what sort of sign it was.) We have the more sure word of prophecy (the 66 books of the Canon), *“whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19).*

Young ones and older ones, how much are you occupied with the Holy Scripture? Do you read it prayerfully, wrestling and searching? The Christ of Scripture can be found in it. How much are you occupied with it? Until *“the day star arise in your hearts”*? While you pray with a longing soul, "Lord, I know Thee not." And if you are unconverted, "I know nothing about that Day Star. But oh, reveal Him in my life so that He may arise in His full power and shed His Light in my life of darkness!"

These heathen men came. *“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.”* Have you ever considered the question they asked after they arrived in Jerusalem? It is quite striking what these men asked. They didn't ask, "Has there possibly a King been born?" No, they put it far more strongly, *“Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”* It was not *whether* a King had been born but *where* the King of the Jews was born. What faith! Not doubting, but full of faith they asked where He, the King of the Jews, resided.

Another remarkable thing. They didn't talk about ‘a’ star. No, *“We have seen His star in the east.”* We don't know what kind of star it was and whether it was a star. Maybe Da Costa, the Jewish Christian poet, gave the most striking answer when he said it was a light shining out of the Shekhinah, God’s dwelling place. A trail of light from God Himself was displayed in the heavens.

And then these words, *“And are come to worship Him.”* Not merely to look at Him, not to pose some questions in order to satisfy their inquiring mind. No, they came for one thing: to worship Him. What a blessing it would be, congregation, if that would be your desire, "Lord, open Thy Word, so that I may find the Christ of Scripture in it and that I may worship Him." Not to subject Him to a scientific study, not to ask Him some inquiring questions.

One is allowed to ask questions, congregation, young people in our midst. Nicodemus did that too. He went to Jesus to ask Him some questions. You can read that in John 3. And in response Jesus spoke about Himself. But here you can

see what these heathens do. They have come to worship Him. We will come back to this later.

We will proceed with our second thought:

2. The King of the Jews searched out

‘Searched out’ – because it doesn't all happen just like that. Pay careful attention to how committed these wise men are in seeking the King. No one can distract them. They have come to worship Jesus, and with great perseverance they continue looking for Him.

In verse 3 we read that Jerusalem was stirred up, *“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.”* One would like to see that more often, that people are moved by the Gospel. That people would show a little more emotion. How is it possible that you sometimes encounter people who state without any emotion whatsoever, “I am still unconverted”? How chilling to meet people who without any emotion, even casually, can talk about their approaching death, seemingly without grasping what it means to meet God, to appear before the living God!

Caution is needed, however, when you encounter emotions. Our brother office-bearers know that. Because what was Herod troubled about? This old king of Judaea, Idumea and Samaria, this old, crafty king, who had been in power for some 35 years, was troubled because his throne-position was in danger. He wanted to cling to his kingly power as long as possible. How sad!

Supposedly Caesar Augustus said of this king that you were better off being his pig than his subject. He was so cruel that he even murdered his wife, his mother-in-law and two of his sons because he was afraid that they would make a claim on his throne. Now that cruel person was troubled because his authority appeared to be challenged. Apparently, this can also be a cause of being troubled. Troubled because your ego can no longer be sustained. Troubled because there is Another unto Whom every knee shall bow.

We also read that “all Jerusalem” was troubled with him, that is, with King Herod. What were the people troubled about? Probably they were not all troubled in the same way. Yet, all Jerusalem was troubled. The whole of Jerusalem was stirred. But one thing soon became clear: nobody needed Jesus. We don't read of anyone going with the wise men to worship Jesus. Jerusalem was probably afraid. They knew their cruel sovereign and were afraid of the impending consequences of the birth of this new King. Maybe sooner or later he would cause a bloodbath, something he had already done more often. Maybe he would murder everyone who had anything to do with this King. They were not far from the truth and so they were afraid of the consequences of this message.

And thus, congregation, the troubled feelings subsided again. Herod's troubled feeling subsided. Jerusalem being troubled subsided. Have you ever been troubled? Maybe a sermon once troubled your heart, because for a moment you felt, “I am unconverted and unforgiven, I cannot meet God this way.” Did it subside?

Maybe you have been troubled because you lost that which was most dear to you. And even though that pain might never cease, the trouble passes. The fruits will show whether it was a saving conviction or not. For many people, also for the Jews in Jerusalem, the slavery of sin took precedence over the freedom of the children of God. They were afraid of the consequences.

The king acted quickly. We read in verse 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.”* He needed theological advice. And he knew where to get that. He had to call the 71 members of the Sanhedrin to appear before him. As you probably know, there were three spiritual groups in Israel that time. First there were the elders of the people, those who controlled the political life in Israel, insofar as there was any form of self-government left. Then there were the chief priests, they were the spiritual leaders whose job it was to provide leadership in Jerusalem regarding spiritual matters. Finally there were the Pharisees, they were usually called the scribes and their job was to provide instruction in the law.

Herod needed the help of those 71 men. They had to advise him. What a serious thought, congregation. Consider it for a moment. Herod had built the temple. He embellished the temple, the result must have been a very nice building. But he hated the Messenger of the Covenant, Who suddenly would come to His temple. You may be a benefactor of the congregation and contribute to the maintenance of the church building -- and I earnestly hope that you do that -- and yet not fear the Lord. Such was Herod, an enemy who built the temple, but who hated the Lord of the temple.

Another solemn thought. Those leaders of religious Jerusalem immediately had an answer ready. *“And they said unto him...”* we get the impression that they immediately gave an answer, without hesitating or having to look it up in Scripture, *“In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet.”* And then they quoted Micah, translated somewhat freely, *“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.”*

They were perfectly acquainted with the prophecies of Micah. They referred to the little town where the Messiah will be born. But that He *actually* had been born, no, they didn't believe that at all. How shocking, congregation! It is most likely that they thought that when the Messiah would be born, they would be the first to know and not those uncircumcised heathens. Would God declare it to such people? No, it would have been announced in Jerusalem and so they would have known that the Messiah had been born. Abraham's seed would have known that the Son of Abraham had been born. They didn't believe anything of it. But they did point out the way, "You have to go to Bethlehem!"

Parents, club leaders, members of the evangelism committee, brother office-bearers, what a saddening thought, to be a signpost pointing to Jesus but nothing more than that. A signpost stands still at the side of the road. You point to the place where Jesus can be found but you don't go there yourself. Then you are ignorant regarding the knowledge of Christ.

The Apostle Paul feared exactly that same thing, *“Lest that by any means,”* he writes to the church of Corinth, *“when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway”* (1 Corinthians 9:27). What a solemn thought! To be a signpost, immovable...to have pointed out the right way, but not to have come at Jesus' feet yourself. Just consider that for a moment. How terrible this would be!

And now consider that Idumean Herod, that seed of the serpent. For that is what he was. He didn't deliver half measures. That hypocritical king secretly summoned the wise men before him, as we can read in verse 7, *“Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.”*

Privily. I think that there are two reasons why he did that privily. Privily, lest anyone would think that he, an Idumean, that is an Edomite, a descendant of Esau, the hater of his brother Jacob, would imagine that he would attach any credence to those words. Because that way he might arouse those Messianic expectations in Jerusalem. No, he must prevent that.

Also, if he does it in secret they won't be able to discover his motives either. They will not realize what he is planning to do. It would not have been easy to get those wise men into the palace in secret, you can be sure of that. You would need to be quite crafty to do that. You would need to be a Herod for that.

But he managed to do it. He called them to him secretly and was able to speak to them. He had a question. The boys and girls know what Herod asked, *“Find out if it is really true. And if it is true, tell me, so that I can also go and worship that Child.”* Such a liar! Because this man Herod didn't intend to worship at all. He just wanted one thing: he wanted to be worshiped himself! He wanted to stay on the throne!

And then the amazing thing. Congregation, maybe you are seeking Jesus but you have to say, *“I have not found Him.”* Maybe you have become old but you do not know Jesus. Then take an example from these wise men. They let no-one

restrain them. They let no-one discourage them. They went! We read it so plainly, *“When they had heard the king, they departed.”*

It is amazing that no-one went with them. It was only nine kilometers. If you have ever been to Jerusalem, you will know that you can see Bethlehem lying in the distance. Jerusalem is on a hill. If you go to Jerusalem, you literally go up, uphill. Jerusalem is bigger now than it was then but, standing at the southeast side of the city, you can see Bethlehem lying in the distance.

We don't read of anyone from Jerusalem accompanying them to Bethlehem. Would there not have been any God-fearing people in Jerusalem? Oh yes, happily there were! We know that. Because when Anna had seen Jesus in the temple, she went out into Jerusalem and spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. She spoke to all about Jesus. That bit of history must have taken place earlier.

There had been a few, maybe a handful, who knew that it was true and who delighted in the Savior. However, most of them stayed behind.

And then God's faithfulness shines brightly as the wise men went. No one could discourage them. *“And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.”* What a wonder! That is what the Lord does to those who have a need of Jesus.

Have you ever felt a need of Jesus? You feel your need for Him if you cannot live without Him. You will feel your need for Him if living without Him means you will perish. You will feel your need for Him if the Lord, through His Spirit, discovers you to your lost and guilty state.

The way to Jesus can be difficult. It may sometimes appear that everything is against you and that you will never get there. Maybe there are such people in the church who say, "Lord, I have been seeking for so long and I have still not come at Thy feet." Maybe there are young people who are wrestling with Scripture, "Lord, it seems like I will never get there."

Hear then Who the Lord is. He will never leave such a seeker shamefaced. He will lead them according to His counsel and give them what they need, at His time. It may take a long time and it may be in a mysterious way. Remember, the Lord used Herod, a hateful man, a hypocrite, and even the unbelieving scribes, to reveal His Word. He leads the wise men even on the phase of their journey to Jesus. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, the upholder and finisher of their faith.

And so they arrived at the exact house. How many houses would there have been in Bethlehem? We don't know. Bethlehem was a small, insignificant town. Maybe there were two hundred houses. But just imagine....it became dark, it was evening and as a stranger you would need to find just one single house. The place where Jesus lived. You would never get there, would you?

Congregation, if you had to take yourself to Jesus, you would never come to Him. Do not forget that. You wouldn't know where He is. Maybe there are some who understand something of that. You would never get there. However, this is the secret: God takes them to the feet of His Son. That is God's own work, through His Word and through His Spirit. And here, with those wise men, through a special sign, the star. The star went before them. They came exactly to the house where they had to be.

There are more questions than answers. How is that possible? How could that shining star go before them? We don't understand it properly but we follow the words of Da Costa, "It was so clear and so bright in their souls and God pointed the way, right up to the house where Jesus was." That is what God's children will notice, if the star of God's mercy and faithfulness rises. Then they take courage. They come to the place where Jesus is to be found. They come to Him.

The King of the Jews pointed out, searched out, but also worshiped. That is our last thought. But we will first sing of Psalter 198 stanzas 6 and 7.

*The desert lands to Him shall bow,
And all the islands of the sea,
And kings with gifts shall pay their vow,
His enemies shall bend the knee.*

and what follows in the 7th stanza. Psalter 193, stanzas 6 and 7.

3. The King of the Jews worshiped

We read so emphatically in verse 11, *“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped Him.”* Seekers become finders. Do you hear that, boys and girls, young people? Seekers of the Lord, of the Lord Jesus, become finders. *“Seek, and ye shall find”* (Matthew 7:7).

Sometimes it can take a long time. The wise men experienced that too. But they did find Him. That is the Lord's work. And true seekers -- whose real object is the King of kings, the King of the Jews, the Messiah -- will fall down before His feet.

They will be favored to see Him. How wonderful! Who do they see then? We read so emphatically that they saw the young Child Jesus first! He was the object of their seeking. How wonderful that must have been! Just imagine! A few heathen men have seen a star and they believed that a King had been born. They arrived in what was probably a simple house and there they saw a Child without form or comeliness. Just a normal little baby. And they saw a normal mother too. We read nothing of Joseph. They didn't see anything uncommon.

How amazing! And do you know what is such a wonder? Once He has been found, all is good. Things can be so different from what you had imagined, but it will not be a disappointment. Not the poor circumstances, nor the fact that He had no form. They saw the greatest gift of God, given in poor circumstances and a frail human body. This leaves only one thing to do, and that is: to worship Him.

Praying is speaking with words. It is good to pray and to acknowledge the Lord with your words, as a priest in your family, if the Lord gave you a family. It is also good to pray if you are alone, either quietly or out loud. But worshiping is not speaking with words. Worshiping is done without words, speechless, in admiration, praising Him. That means doing just one thing, singing *“Lord, my hand is clasped by Thee forever, and held by love that faileth never”* (Psalter 439:2).

Sometimes God's children are favored with that when they sit at the Lord's table. When they may receive the bread and the wine and when their heart is led

to behold these tokens, when they are favored to see the Master's love in these tokens. Then they may worship and praise Him in speechless wonder.

That is what the wise men did. They knelt before the Child and worshiped Him. They did not come with empty hands. There are some who have dared to be critical of this. Because you should come with empty hands. You will know the expressions, "One must come as a beggar" and, "Just show the Lord your empty hands." But the wise men didn't do that. They came with full hands. Some have dared to criticize this, "Is not this King the Possessor of all things? Of the cattle upon a thousand hills and all the gold that is to be found in this world?"

And yet we may not expound the wise men's bringing of gifts in this way. We are convinced that the gifts they took along with them spoke of something else. They spoke of love. *"And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."* *"Held by love that faileth never..."* And if you love the Lord and His service, young people, you also want to sacrifice to the Lord and His service. You desire to contribute according to your ability. Giving to the Lord because of His gifts to you. Giving, also in the house of God. Also for the distant neighbor. The wise men did just that, as a sign of their acknowledgment.

How well the Lord looked after Joseph and Mary. They were given gold. They would be able to make good use of that when they would have to travel to Egypt for an extended period of time. They were given myrrh, a precious gift that could be used on the journey as well. They were given frankincense. What does that mean? People have imagined all sorts of things. But I don't think you should put too much symbolism in it. Certainly, gold goes with a king. That is a beautiful symbolic gift for the King of kings. Myrrh may point to His suffering, with which this King offered Himself. Frankincense also suits the Child, because He will be an Intercessor.

But please, don't look for too much behind all this. It is a royal gift. We may not put more into it than is mentioned in Scripture. They brought their gift, a royal

gift, and laid it at His feet. They gave according to their ability. And Joseph and Mary were helped, when soon they had to travel to Egypt.

One more thing. Verse 12 starts with, *“And being warned of God...”* How sober the Scriptures are! Have you never noticed that? No more is recorded. One would like to know so much more. We have more questions than answers regarding the wise men. Also, when considering Luke 2 one is sometimes astonished. In the first seven verses of that chapter, God's Name is not even mentioned! The Christ of Scripture is born, God's greatest gift, His only begotten Son -- and the Name of God or Lord is not mentioned once! As if you are reading a newspaper, a non-Christian newspaper! The Name of God is not mentioned, yet God writes history. Here too. Very soberly, we hear just one thing, *“And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.”*

The Lord appeared to them in a dream. What a wonder that is! Herod, that crafty fox, will not be able to execute his cruel plan before Jesus has fled. How wonderful are God's ways! Soon Herod will stain his hands with the innocent blood of the children of Bethlehem. But he will be unable to take hold of the Christ of the Scriptures. The seed of the serpent is powerful, but the Seed of the woman will conquer and remain safe in Egypt. *“That the Scripture should be fulfilled: out of Egypt have I called my son”* (Matthew 2:15). We don't actually know when this history took place. It could well have been a month after the birth of the Lord Jesus.

Christmas is behind us. Now only one question remains: what effect did the Christmas Gospel have on you? Because it could have been your last celebration of Christmas. My unconverted fellow traveler, this is the question that arises from this history. Why did these wise men have to go through Jerusalem to Bethlehem? Why did they not go directly to Bethlehem? Why did they visit Jerusalem? Why did they have to wake up the sleeping dog Herod? Why did they have to trouble the people? What was the purpose of that?

Thinking of this, I could only come up with one answer. And, unconverted sinner, if only that one answer could resound in your soul, and may you be kept from finding rest at any place other than at the feet of King Jesus. There is just one answer. None of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be able to say before the Judgment seat, "We didn't know that a King had been born." Because heathen men brought the message, "The King of the Jews has been born, for we have seen His Star!" No one will be able to say, "I did not know." What a solemn thought! Not one of us will be able to say before that Judgment seat, "I did not know." Because today it is proclaimed to us, "Think on the things which belong unto thy peace! Seek for this Prince of Peace! Do not rest until you have come at His feet." Maybe some of us will say, "My heart longs for Him. I know where I must go, but I cannot come there. I cannot take myself there." Today I may comfort you with something our fathers of Dordt wrote for such people in the Canons of Dordt. For people of whom they knew that their heart longs for Jesus and who could not bring themselves to Him, who could not simply accept it and who longed to be brought to His feet, our fathers wrote, "Those people ought not to be alarmed (in despair) at the mention of reprobation (...), but diligently to persevere in the use of the means." Search the Scriptures with prayer! Come to God's house in prayer. Seek the Lord while wrestling and do not despair. The way may well be longer than you think. With the wise men things also went differently from how they had hoped. But seekers become finders!

And concerned ones among us, if you are such an afflicted soul in need of Him, persevere and take courage, that your heart may rejoice. Throughout all ages the Lord has brought all those seekers at the point where they were privileged to find Him. He will bring them there today too, until the last day. The matter does require haste. So ask the Lord constantly, day and night, that He would speak to your soul. Do that as the poet of Psalm 121 did:

*Unto the hills I lift mine eyes
Whence cometh all my aid.*

He can and will and shall raise that star that leads to Jesus. That is where we have to go!

Children of the Lord, have the Christmas days brought you once again to the feet of Jesus? Because that must be the effect, each time again. We have to be brought back to His feet again. Always. To be favored to worship there, to gaze in wonder at that incomprehensible love for sinners. Then only one thing will remain: to worship, just as the wise men did. Worshiping that begins here and never ends. Of this Zacharias sang:

*Whereby the Dayspring from above
Has visited His people;
To lighten them that in darkness hide,
and in the shades of death abide.*

Amen.

Concluding Psalter 183:3, 4

*Sing unto God, ye nations,
Ye kingdoms of the earth;
Sing unto God, all people,
And praise His matchless worth.
He rides in royal triumph
Upon the heavn's abroad;
He speaks, the mountains tremble
Before the voice of God.*

and what follows in stanza 4. Psalter 183 stanzas 3 and 4.