

This week, we learn about Wise Men who followed a special star.

# A DAY WITH THE KING



"At Bethlehem they found no royal guard stationed to protect the newborn King. None of the world's honored men were in attendance. Jesus was cradled in a manger. His parents, uneducated peasants, were His only guardians... Beneath the lowly guise of Jesus, they recognized the presence of Divinity." – The Desire of Ages p. 63

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## Wise Men Follow the Star

#### DAILY DEVOTIONAL 74



**LET'S PRAY** Dear God, thank You for being patient with me. Please help me to be patient with other people, just as You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The loyal angels had joyfully welcomed the birth of Jesus. But another mighty being was filled with astonishment and rage. Satan had used all of his deceptive power to trap as many people as he could into sin. He hoped that would make God think people were so bad He would give up His plan to save them. But God had not given up. Now Jesus had been born! Satan trembled at the message of God's angels as they sang of the glory and power of the newborn King. He and his angels knew that if Christ's mission was successful, their rule on Earth would soon end. Together they plotted how to destroy the helpless Baby. In Revelation 12:9 the Bible calls Satan a dragon. In verse 4 he is waiting to kill the Child (Jesus) that the woman (God's church) is about to deliver.

#### THE ANGRY DEVIL

### **MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31**

"So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

James 2:19; Revelation 12:9; John 3:16;

#### KEY TEXT: Revelation 12:4

"And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born."

The Bible also pictures Satan as another fierce animal. In today's puzzle, circle every fifth letter. Next, write the remaining letters in the first set of spaces below to find out what this animal is. Then write the circled letters in the second set of spaces to find out how to make him run away!

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\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_ . 1 Peter 5:8.

. James 4:7.







LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You that You send Your angels to help everyone in the world. Thank You for my guardian angel. In Jesus' name, Amen

### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

On the night the angels sang to the shepherds, others were also watching the sky. At that time, Wise Men (Magi) from the east saw a mysterious light in the heavens towards the land of Israel. As the light faded, a glowing star appeared in the sky. The new star didn't move like other stars or planets, and the Wise Men wondered what it could be. The star was actually a distant group of shining angels, but the Wise Men didn't know that.

### **FOLLOWING THE STAR**

Wanting to find out more, they at last turned to the Hebrew scrolls where Balaam's prophecies about Israel were recorded. What did they find there? Use the code below to find out! Then check your answer in Numbers 24:17

### MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31

"So you also, when you \_\_\_\_ these things happening, \_\_\_\_ that the kingdom of God is near."

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Luke 2:13,14; Matthew 2:1,2.

#### KEY TEXT: Matthew 2:2

"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."

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15	21	20	)	-	15	6		9	19	9 1	18	1	5	12	-					

Could this strange star have been sent as a sign of the Promised King who would bless the whole world? they wondered. The Wise Men went in search for the newborn King.

They left for their journey, not sure of where the star would take them, but they made sure to take gifts for the Baby-King. To follow the Star, they had to travel at night. Their long journey took them over deserts and mountains.





LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for Your plan to save me. Please help me to follow Your way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

At last, the Wise Men reached Palestine. The guiding star stopped right above the temple in Jerusalem, then faded out of sight. Quickly the Magi entered Jerusalem, sure that everyone would be talking about the promised Baby! But when they asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" no one knew what they were talking about. Instead, everyone seemed surprised and afraid.

Instead of thinking about God and the Messiah who would save them from sin, the priests and rulers were busy "doing" religious ceremonies, as if these would assure them a place in heaven. The Bible tells us that God's plan was to send Jesus to save people because He loved them. But Satan had deceived almost the whole world into thinking that they didn't need to follow God's plan to be saved. Even the Jews had a false idea about God and the coming Messiah. They read the Bible prophecies about the Messiah, but didn't understand what they meant.

### MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31

"So you also, when you \_\_\_\_ these things happening, \_\_\_\_ that the kingdom of \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_."

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Mark 7:2-8.

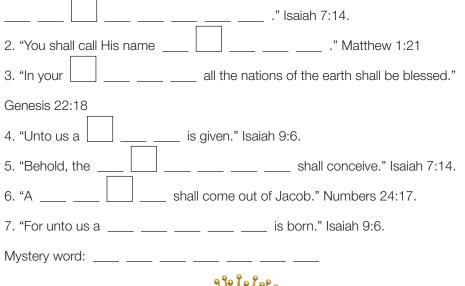
### KEY TEXT: Mark 7:9.

"You reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

### **DELIVERER KING PROPHECIES**

Look up the prophecies about Jesus and fill in the blank words. Next, put the circled letters into the mystery word spaces to find the Jewish word for the promised deliverer King.

1. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name









**LET'S PRAY** Dear Lord, thank You that Jesus came first as a baby. Please help me to watch for the signs that Jesus is coming again. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31**

"So \_\_\_\_ also, when \_\_\_\_ these things happening, \_\_\_\_ that the kingdom of \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_."

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Luke 2:25-38.

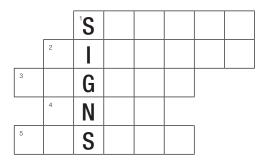
### **KEY TEXT:** Luke 2:25,26

"There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, ... And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." If the priests and rulers had been studying the Bible, really wanting to know about the Messiah, the angels would have sung to them about Jesus' birth. But they weren't interested, so the angels had gone to the shepherds. Then, the angel-star led the Wise Men right to the temple where the priests were. God was giving the priests another chance to tell people about the newborn Messiah. What would they say?

The priests knew of the birth of John—the prophet who was to announce that the Messiah had come. They had heard about the angels' song to the shepherds, and the news of Jesus' birth. And when Jesus was dedicated in the temple, Simeon and Anna had both spoken prophecies about Him. All these were signs given by God to show that the prophecies about the Messiah were being fulfilled—right before them. But the priests had decided these signs were not important. They had told the people it was all a lot of excitement about nothing. Instead of studying the Bible carefully, and accepting the signs God sent, the priests refused to even think about whether Baby Jesus might really be God's Messiah.

### SIGNS FROM HEAVEN

Read about the signs God gave of Jesus' birth to complete the acrostic.



1. "Then	blessed them.
Luke 2:34–35.	

2. "After Jesus was born inBethlehem...behold, \_\_\_\_\_from the East came to Jerusalem."Matthew 2:1–2.

3. "... the \_\_\_\_\_ had gone away from them [the shepherds] into heaven." Luke 2:15–18.

4. "Now there was one, \_ \_ \_ , a prophetess." Luke 2:36–38.

5. "\_\_\_\_\_ also went up... to...Bethlehem...to be registered with Mary....". Luke 2:4–7.





**LET'S PRAY** Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be God with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

News of the Wise Men reached the palace of the wicked King Herod, who was terrified at the news of this Prince—One who was born to the throne! Herod was not born to be king, but was made king by the Romans. So, he decided to get rid of this Baby. Pretending he wanted to worship the Baby-King, he told the Wise Men to come back and tell him where they found the Baby.

The Wise Men left Jerusalem feeling very sad, for no-one had been excited—and where was the Baby? Had they come all this way for nothing? Suddenly, the angelstar appeared again in the sky so they followed it. The star led them to Bethlehem, right to the house where Jesus was staying. When they went in they saw Baby Jesus, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and gave Him their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31										
"So _	also, when	_ these t	hings							
	_ that the kingdom of	is	,, 							

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Matthew 2:1-12.

### KEY TEXT: Matthew 2:11

"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him."

### WORSHIPPING GOD, OUR MAKER

The Wise Men knew that baby Jesus was God, and worshipped Him. In the puzzle circle every eighth letter. Write the remaining letters in the first set of spaces below to find out how we should pray to God. The circled letters go into the second set of spaces and say *why* we should worship God alone. Check your answers in Psalm 95:6 and 100:3.

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**LET'S PRAY** Dear God, thank You for sending angels to care for me. Please help me to obey You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Herod had pretended he wanted to worship Baby Jesus, but in fact, he was planning to kill him! But God protected His Son. God sent an angel with an urgent message to Joseph, who took Mary and Jesus and fled to Egypt where they would be safe.

Herod thought he was carrying out his own plans when he plotted to kill Baby Jesus. But the truth is that when we disobey God, we are really obeying Satan. We do what *he* wants us to. We become *his* slaves. Satan is an angel, which means he is a spirit. When he gets people on his side—called in Ephesians 2:2 "the children of disobedience"—Satan has them do his work of tempting and hurting others. Satan wanted to destroy Baby Jesus, and he worked through King Herod to try to do that.

#### THE SON WILL MAKE YOU FREE

MEMORY VERSE - LUKE 21:31

"So \_\_\_\_\_ also, when \_\_\_\_\_ these things \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_."

### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Matthew 2:13-18.

### KEY TEXT: John 8:36

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

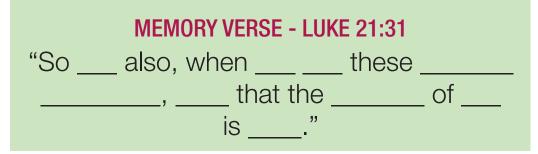
All the words from today's Key Text are in the puzzle below. Find each of the words in the puzzle and colour them. How did Jesus set us free? Write the remaining letters (from left to right, top to bottom) in the blank spaces underneath, to find the answer (make sure you have found the correct "be"!). Check your answer, and read about it, in Philippians 2:5-7.

J	Y	Е	S	М	А	К	Е	S	U
S	Υ	0	U	F	В	E	С	А	М
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V	L	А	Ν	Т	Е	F	0	В	R
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**LET'S PRAY** Dear God, thank You that Jesus is coming again soon. Please help me to be ready. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

### LET'S READ:

Mark 13:32-36.

### KEY TEXT: Mark 13:37.

"And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Wise Men studied the Scriptures, and followed the signs God sent to confirm His Word. Today, there are also important events happening in our world. All around us are signs prophesied in the Bible. Our memory verse for this week tells us that these signs mean Jesus' second coming is near. Do you want to be ready for that great day? If you do, write to us and tell us!

How important that we study the Bible, obey it, and watch carefully to see how its prophecies are being fulfilled! Complete the next part of the Great Controversy Saga.

### PART 7: FOLLOWING THE STAR

Egypt protected	gifts safe	happy Satan	Herod save	Jesus slave	kill star	King treasures	plot Wise					
On the night when the angels sang to the shepherds, men from the East												
saw a bright light over Israel. When a new $\_\_$ $\_\_$ shone in the sky, they found												
the prophecy about Jesus being the star of Israel. They took , and												
followed the angel-star to find the newborn $\_\_$ $\_\_$ $\_\_$ .												

When the Wise Men came to Jerusalem, nobody seemed excited about the birth of Baby \_\_\_\_\_\_. When King \_\_\_\_\_\_ found out, he was terrified! He pretended he wanted to worship the Baby King, but instead, he was planning to \_\_\_\_\_\_ him!

The Wise Men left Jerusalem, and felt so \_\_\_\_\_\_ to see the angel-star once again, this time over Bethlehem. When they came to the house where Jesus was, they bowed down, and gave Him their \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ .

King Herod thought he had made up a clever \_\_\_\_\_\_ to kill the special Baby. But the plot was really made up by \_\_\_\_\_\_ and his angels. By doing evil, Herod was working as Satan's \_\_\_\_\_\_. Satan tried to destroy Jesus before He could \_\_\_\_\_\_ the world, but God \_\_\_\_\_\_ His Son. Mary and Joseph, with Baby Jesus, fled to \_\_\_\_\_\_, where they were \_\_\_\_\_.

