

December 24, 2022. Local Conference Advance

Cheers to the Royal Baby

Appeal: Matthew 2:2

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

We worship God with our resources because the royal baby, Jesus, was born on planet earth. The fascination for royal babies has transcended all ages. A search of the name “Archie,” a royal baby born to the Mountbatten-Windsor family in 2019, will give millions of results. The birth of a royal baby often creates a buzz in the media, and people feed on the most minute details out of curiosity and admiration. Likewise, seeing His star, the three magi left everything and everyone behind and embarked on a tiresome, time-consuming, and unsafe journey beyond the boundaries of their homeland. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they disclosed the purpose of their trip: we have come to worship the King, born of the Jews. The description that we have of this act of worship deserves attention.

Do you know any Christmas carols that the Magi sang to baby Jesus? Do you know the prayer that they made to the newborn King? Can you remember the words with which Joseph and Mary addressed them during their visit? Or any souvenir that they brought back home? Nowhere in the Gospel do we find such information. This silence is surprising and possibly significant! The focus was elsewhere: “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). They honored the royal baby by presenting gifts to him.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus remains a major event in most countries and for many Christians. This year won't be an exception. Listening to carols, enjoying some favorite seasonal food, blessing ourselves and our loved ones with gifts, and participating in some uplifting church services define Christmas for many of us. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us remember how the Magi worshipped the royal baby: by giving of their resources.

Prayer: Lord, as we talk, sing, and reflect about the birth of Jesus. Help us dedicate time and energy to seek You and to use our resources to honor You as King.