

The Exact Hour

Script - Phil. 4:6-7

A. Herod and the wise men (Mt. 2:1-8).

1. Vs. 3 Why were the people disturbed?
2. Vs. 3 Herod was disturbed
3. Vs. 1 The arrival of the wise men was disturbing for many reasons.
4. Vs. 4 Herod asked the priest where the Christ child was to be born.
5. Vs. 7 Herod asked the wise men, in a secret meeting, the exact time the star *had* appeared (NIV). Why did Herod say this? Did he want to look for the star? Did the star re-appear for the wise men? Why didn't Herod see it when it re-appeared for the wise men? Was he ready? Are there people that ask about Jesus coming and want to know and they get distracted? If Herod got distracted back then what could he do? Kill all the male children 2 years old and under. What can you do if you get distracted for the 2nd coming? In Acts 24:24-25 Felix put off a decision when it would be convenient. Jesus also mentions people getting distracted in Lk. 21:34-35.

B. Jesus talking about the 2nd coming and he says, No one knows” the exact hour except the father (Mt. 24:36-44; Mk. 13:32-37; Lk. 17:26-27, 34-35; 21:24-36).

1. His followers know about this statement from Jesus.
2. There are some who teach that the 2nd coming will be a surprise for the righteous and the wicked (the rapture teaching) but this is not one of the basic biblical teachings.
3. Jesus predicted that some will get sidetracked at the time of the 2nd coming (Lk. 21:34-35). Mt. 25 says some are not ready.

C. Summary

1. Both groups (The wise men and Herod) had a hunger for more info. Hos. 4:6 says My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Apparently, knowledge is not enough. Unless it includes a knowledge of the holy One (Prov. 9:10). Mt. 13:3-9 says that many seeds were scattered both not all were fruitful.
2. One group set out on a costly journey, expending their personal time and energy, with expensive gifts tucked under their arms. The other (Herod) sends others to investigate. Although Herod asked about the exact time the star appeared there is no record that he ever found the star or went looking for it.
3. Witnessing or sharing your faith, is built into this story, as the wise men were led by God to go to Jerusalem first to make inquiries before proceeding to Bethlehem.
4. Although Jerusalem was a disappointment for the wise men, it was only after they proceeded on their journey, following the information they gathered there, that the star re-appeared to guide them to Jesus.
5. The wise men were willing to be led by God to find the Savior.

D. Appeal

1. Do you have a hunger and thirst to find more information about what is happening in our world today?
2. Are you willing to be led by God, like the wise men were?
3. Are you willing to invest your time, energy and resources to find Jesus and help others find him?
4. Are you willing to let God make you a witness as a part of his plan for your life?
5. Jesus taught that some would get sidetracked (Lk. 21:34-35) but we can have peace in Him (1 Th. 5:1-10; Phil. 4:6-7; Jn. 3:3; Rom. 8:15; 2 Tim. 1:12).