

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE CHRISTMAS SERIES PART 7

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE – PART 1

“We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar...” is a song we often hear at Christmastime. It reinforces a false imagery invented by the Roman church and perpetuated throughout Protestant churches.

The images we see painted are three camels with one king mounted upon each camel. To counter that false narrative put forth throughout Christendom, we will simply point out truth. Truth trumps the false.

The story of the wise men’s visit to see the newborn king of the Jews is told in Matthew 2:1-12. It is quite a remarkable story. First of all, they were not “kings” in the traditional sense of rulership. They were “magi,” the plural form of “magus” which means “astrologer.” It is also the root word for “magic” as the magi were presumed to have some divinely appointed supernatural understanding, hence “wise men.” They studied the stars (as astronomers) and could understand “times, seasons, and events” from the stars. The Bible tells us that God has written the times and season in the heavens.

The “wise men” had such a long-storied history that Babylonian kings had wise men as their court advisors. They were born in the southern part of Babylon called Chaldea. They had some Persian heritage, so they were more Persian than Babylonians; they were uniquely Chaldean.

Abraham was born and raised in Chaldea in the city of Ur. When he left as a young adult with his father and brother Haran, his other brother Nahor remained in Chaldea and raised his family there. Abraham and Sarah were Chaldean. Abraham years later sent his servant back to Chaldea to get a Chaldean wife for Isaac from his family’s bloodline from Nahor.

With Abraham’s blood connection to them, the Chaldeans somehow were knowledgeable of God’s prophecy that a great king would arise out of Israel whose dominion would be everlasting. When they saw this star in the heavens, they knew it was a sign that this king had been born. They felt compelled to go honor him as their people had awaited him for centuries.

This is the background. Tomorrow we will talk about the actual visit, correct some errors, and discuss just how very special this event was. Stay tuned.