



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, December 10, 2017

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THEMES IN THE BIBLE

I have been listening to Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology class, and he encourages students to look for themes when reading their Bible. I knew of some but there are others that may not jump out at you without doing a little digging. Some of the themes that jumped out at me have to do with the birth of Jesus and even more specifically, the wise men that came to Jesus carrying gifts.

Matthew 2:1-12 *"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*

*"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

"Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way."

We are not sure who the wise men were, but they were wealthy and influential people from the east. They were not Jews but gentiles to come and worship the King of the Jews. First theme is the birth of a special child that is a descendent of David, Abraham, and of Eve. This is the child talked about in Genesis 3:15:

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THEMES IN THE BIBLE

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*"I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

Throughout the entire Old Testament, the Jews waited for this child and it came to pass with the birth of Jesus. The prophecy was fulfilled for Jesus and he will bruise the head of the serpent.

The second theme is the threat of an evil ruler trying to destroy the chosen people of God. We see it in Exodus with Pharaoh or the Philistines trying to destroy the Jewish people. The evil one is trying to destroy the promise from God that there is a Messiah coming.

The third theme is the promise that God would establish his king on the throne. The wise men came asking where the King of the Jews could be found. They were looking for the true king, greater than any other, who would reign forever.

The fourth theme is the leaders of nations beyond the borders of Israel have come to worship the new born King. God promised Abraham that all nations of the earth will be blessed not just the Jews. Throughout the Old Testament, a few gentiles were blessed but with the birth of Jesus, the wise men from the east (gentiles) have come to worship not only the king of Israel, but the one who will be king of all the nations.

We get a hint that the one who was born will bring salvation to all the nations. They brought with them the wealth of all the nations (the gifts) to the King of Israel. There is a theme throughout the Bible of nations bringing gifts to Israel, so they can be used for the glory of God. The wise men's gifts to Jesus gives us a taste of what will happen in Revelation when all the nations will lay the wealth at the feet of Jesus.

I know there is a lot here, but the main point is that throughout the Old Testament there is a foreshadowing of a coming Messiah that will defeat evil and restore God's people to God himself. So, when reading the Bible, keep in mind how each part is tied together and how each point is tied back to Jesus. Let's celebrate his birth.

Blessings, Paul Gilbertson

December Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:3-5

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'" (ESV)

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SHOE COLLECTION

You may have noticed the cardboard box in the entry way - Emily Snider is raising money for a school trip by collecting gently used shoes. Would you consider donating towards this cause? It would be a great help to Valley Christian School and the students who attend there. We will be collecting through the month of December.



Tonight, is our first *The Coming King* Sunday evening service. You don't want to miss this. Come to the New Life building at 6:30 pm with an eye on Jesus ready to consider how Jesus fulfills the long-awaited expectations of Israel. With the services, make sure to participate with the devotional eBook "The Coming King" available through our website, newlifechristiancommunity.org/thecomingking. Download it today.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

This is an open invite for an old-fashioned Christmas at the Milner family's residence, 878 179th St. Dresser, WI 54009 on **Friday, Dec 22nd** starting at 3pm. Come join in the fellowship, food, and fun!

Resource Center Highlight



Wondering where many of the Christmas songs that we sing during our Sunday services can be found? Nine of the songs are on the album *Prepare Him Room* by Sovereign Grace Music; and for the month of December we are offering this album in the Resource Center! Stop by and purchase your copy this morning!

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* • *New Life Connect* • *Set Lists* • & *More*

New Life now has an Instagram account.
Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

- Dec 10** **The Coming King** (devotional service)
6:30 pm at NLCC
- Dec 10** **Forge Ministry** (9th-12th Grade)
6:30 - 8:00 pm at NLCC
- Dec 13** **Immerse** (all ages)
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC
- Dec 14** **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 am at NLCC
- Dec 14** **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 am at NLCC
- Dec 14** **GriefShare Evening Meeting**
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

- Dec 17** Meal Team #1
Dec 24 Meal Team #2
Dec 31 Meal Team #3

Join us for Fellowship and a
Meal after our service today!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
[Mark 15:21-32](#)

Sermon Notes:

