SHEPHERDS AND SORCERERS

Acts 10:34-36

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. (NIV)

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Luke 2:7-8

7 And she (Mary) brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding (living) in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (KJV)

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"Shepherds were absolutely required to carry out their responsibilities; and their responsibilities absolutely disqualified them from participating in their required religious responsibilities."

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Luke 2:8-10

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

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9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

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10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

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 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

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12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (KJV)

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Luke 2:15-16

...the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

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 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. (KJV)

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Luke 2:17-20

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And when they had seen it (the baby Jesus), they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

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18 And all they that heard it wondered (were amazed) at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

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19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

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20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (KJV)

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Acts 4:13

Now when they (the rulers, religious leaders and people of Israel) saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

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Matthew 2:1-18

1 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 (about 2 years later),

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2 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.

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3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

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4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

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5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

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6 "'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.'"

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7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

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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."

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The Greek word for wise is "magos": it means "a magician, sorcerer or wizard"

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The word "magos" is the word from which we get our word "magi". It comes from the Greek root word, "rab-mag" Defintion: "chief soothsayer; specifically, an official of the Babylonian King."

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Soothsayer Definition:  "a fortune teller, a clairvoyant or psychic."

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Astrology: "The study of movements of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world."

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Matthew 2:9-11

9 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.

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10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

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11 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. (KJV)

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Matthew 2:12-16

12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

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14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt

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15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

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16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. (ESV)

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1 Corinthians 1:26-27

26...not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

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27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (ESV)