

## **The Figures of the Nativity**

### **Part 1 – *The Visitors of Jesus***

#### **The Shepherds – the lowly \_\_\_\_\_ exalted**

- A. The social status of shepherds – lowly \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The biblical story of the shepherds' visit (Lk 2:8-20)
  - 1. They were in the same region \_\_\_\_\_ of Bethlehem (out in the country)
  - 2. They were watching their flocks \_\_\_\_\_ at night (to keep them safe)
  - 3. An angel suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to them with a bright light shining around them speaking a message.
    - a. Don't be afraid \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. I have good news for you and for all the people \_\_\_\_\_ - the Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born for you.
    - c. You will find the babe wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger \_\_\_\_\_ (a feeding trough for animals)
  - 4. The shepherds immediately \_\_\_\_\_ searched and found Jesus and proclaimed ALL that they had seen and heard.
- C. The shepherds were the first \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim Jesus as the Savior, Christ, and Lord.
  - 1. All who heard were amazed \_\_\_\_\_ at the message.
  - 2. The shepherds were accepted as God's messengers \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Application
  - 1. You might be considered lowly by others or even yourself \_\_\_\_\_ - don't let this drive your thoughts or your actions.
  - 2. If you have given your life to Jesus, you have been elevated to the position of being His messenger \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Christmas is a time where unbelievers participate in a religious \_\_\_\_\_ holiday – a perfect opportunity to tell them the reason for Jesus being born.
    - b. Christmas is a time to remind one another, friends, family, co-workers the reason for the season.

#### **The Wisemen – the mighty high \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. The timing of the wisemen's visit
  - 1. Jesus was not in the stable but in a house \_\_\_\_\_ when they visited (Matt 2:9-11)
  - 2. Mary and Joseph stayed in Bethlehem to fulfill the Law \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 2:21-24; Lev 12)
    - a. They waited \_\_\_\_\_ days to complete the required time of Mary's purification.

- b. They then went to Jerusalem to give a sacrifice at the temple, consecrating Jesus as their first born and h\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.
  - c. Their intention was to return to their home town of N\_\_\_\_\_ but it was interrupted by the wisemen's visit.
  - d. They fled to E\_\_\_\_\_ to escape Herod's plot to kill Jesus.
  - e. They returned to Nazareth once Herod died (scholars agree that Jesus' birth and Herod's death were within \_\_\_ years of each other).
  - f. Herod did not assume that Jesus was two years old, but that He was no older than two years old because of the time when the s\_\_\_\_\_ originally appeared.
- B. The social status of wisemen – h\_\_\_\_\_ position
- 1. Religious advisors in the r\_\_\_\_\_ court of Persia
  - 2. Experts in the positioning of the s\_\_\_\_\_ and looked to for divine guidance.
- C. The story of the wisemen (Matt 2:1-11)
- 1. They d\_\_\_\_\_ every resident of Jerusalem by their question, *where is He who is born the King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.*
    - a. These Gentiles had information about the Jewish Messiah that Jews did not have in their scriptures – a s\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. The wisemen got this information either:
      - 1) Directly from G\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) From D\_\_\_\_\_, a respected chief of the wisemen in the days of King Darius (Dan 6:28)
  - 2. They came to w\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus
    - a. They f\_\_\_\_\_ down before Jesus
    - b. They worshipped Jesus as their \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Application
- 1. Have you stripped yourself of all pride, all that covers the real you and truly worshipped Jesus?
  - 2. What is true worship? (Jn 4:24 – involves spirit and truth)
    - a. Truth – e\_\_\_\_\_ God for who He truly is
    - b. Spirit – h\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in relationship to who God truly is.
  - 3. Examples:
    - a. He is my God; I am His c\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. He is my S\_\_\_\_\_ ; I am His servant
    - c. He is my provider; I am His s\_\_\_\_\_
    - d. He is my guide; I am His f\_\_\_\_\_
    - e. He is a\_\_\_\_\_ ; I am totally dependent on Him.