

Saint Mina Retreat Center



VOL 11, ISSUE 1

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate

JAN-MAR 2017

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

By HG Bishop Youssef

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came WISE MEN from the East to Jerusalem saying, *"Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him. And, lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was"* (Matthew 2:9).

The WISE MEN recognized and understood the meaning of the star. Their wisdom can be characterized as, *"the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times"* (1 Chronicles 12:32). The quest of these wise travelers began with a revelation from God and continued by God's providence. In wisdom they doffed their worldly concerns and allowed the Heavenly Father to lead them. As Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses before them, they sensed God's leading and understood. By faith, the WISE MEN followed the pointing star. By faith, the WISE MEN set out on a journey to pay homage to a newborn King. These educated men whose counsel was probably highly sought after, lived their life by faith. In the Gospel of St Matthew we are told, *"we have seen His star and are come"* (Matthew 2:2).



Obediently, the WISE MEN followed the star. God sent them a sign of the Messiah Himself, signifying the light He will shed upon the world. In ancient times a star signified a god, a deified king. The WISE MEN trusted in the Lord and followed the star into an uncertain direction. The WISE MEN obeyed the will of God. We are given a specific example of the obedience of the WISE MEN in Matthew 2:12, *"Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way."* Due to their obedience we can assume that according to the Gospel of St. Matthew, these Wise Men were among the first to honor the infant Lord Jesus.

St. Matthew, writing for Jewish Christians, cites the Gentile WISE MEN as among the first worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Coming to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords we know the WISE MEN arrived unexpectedly. Yet, their gifts were significant of a newborn Savior.

Gold, from one represented the Christ Divine, the King of Kings. The Lord Jesus Christ laid aside His eternal wealth for His earthly ministry. Frankincense represented God; the fragrant aroma of Life itself, The Prince of Peace came willingly to give His life. It also was representative of His priesthood. Myrrh represented the death that was to come of our Lord and Savior. The WISE MEN knew of the impending sacrificial life of the Lord Jesus Christ. They foresaw that the Lord Jesus Christ would suffer and die.

Wisdom is a high degree of knowledge by learned men. The wise use good practical judgment. The wise can make true and right decisions. May the blessings of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

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UPCOMING RETREATS AT ST. MINA'S – 2017

- February 2–4
- February 13–15
- March 9–11 (Pope Kyrillos Feast)
- March 20–22
- March 30–April 1

THE FRACTION OF ST. EPIPHANIUS ON WISDOM:

Wisdom is brighter than the sun and all the stars.

Wisdom is the light of the Father, existing with Him from Eternity.

Wisdom has existed from Eternity; she renews everyone.

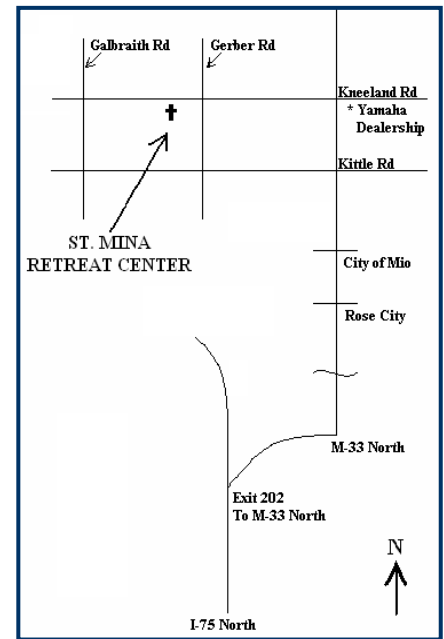
She enters the souls of the righteous through all ages.

Wisdom is more precious than pearls, and unequal to all honors.

Wisdom has counsel, might, and knowledge. By wisdom kings reign, the great men are honored. And the princes of the earth govern!

Wisdom loves those who love her and protects those who keep her.

Those who seek wisdom find grace! Wisdom walks in the way of justice, and moves in the path of truth. Wisdom grants richness to those who acknowledge her, and fills their treasures with joy.



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