

The Epiphany of our Lord
 Year of the Lord 2021
 Matthew 2

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”**

“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.”

In the Name of Jesus.

This is the title that got Jesus killed; it was the indictment over His head when they cruelly sacrificed Him: the King of the Jews. But when He rose, He told us, His disciples, that NOW—THIS KING...this TYPE of King...--rules everything. ‘All authority in heaven and earth—has been...GIVEN...to Me!’

And, dear disciples of Jesus: Learn from ME! Meaning, learn from HIM! All authority on heaven and earth has been GIVEN...TO...YOU!

You bear His Name, the Name of the Son of God, the Ruler in the Flesh that all men clamor for since we fell. But not just HIM! His Father above; and the Spirit Who made David King of old Israel and Who made Jesus King of the Israel that we are now. The mystery revealed to Saint Paul and now to the world: WE...the Gentiles, the lost and hopeless, those who cannot know their left hand from their right hand because we HAVE no equitable LAW, no law that applies to everyone the same way---

The Gentiles are fellow heirs with the children of Abraham. We are members of the same body. We are partakers of the

promise in Christ Jesus through the...not the Law. The Gospel!

The wise men from the East—yup! They was Gentiles! ALL they have to offer is their retirement savings, their investments over which they surely watched as closely as all men. ALL they have to offer is the hassle of travel in the ancient world, and falling down like men always do to the man from whom they expect.

But at least they did that. His people, Israel, was not even looking for Him. Or, if with Herod, they DO start to look for Him, it is to hurry Him off to the harshest of godless Gentiles to make a pact with the devil and crush Him.

But, my dear ones, THAT'S what the Son of God signed up for, when He came in our flesh. THAT is what the Spirit moved into Mary. That helpless King is the One over Whom the Father declared at the Baptism in the Jordan, 'Well done. I cannot be more pleased.'

The proof of that, dear disciples, is that This unseen Father has sent His Spirit to rush upon you and me and all sorts of lost Gentiles, clueless when it comes to the ACTUAL God. And He has made us kings too; and priests; and more.

So that, as I have told y'all many times, NOW is the day of salvation! NOW is the time—to get 'cheeky' with you, then with our King, then the lost and wandering.

'If I WAS in charge!' What would you do, my dear ones? What would you NOT do? Yikes!

‘If I was king of the world, then...’ Your Baptism, Your Spirit, Your PASTOR declares to you the WHOLE MYSTERY of the unseen God:

You ARE in charge! As much as Jesus was, in that house, toddling to the strangely dressed men from the East; as much as He was on the cross; and as much as He is now; as much as has been GIVEN to Him... THAT has been given to YOU!

Be...KING!

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. ¹

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 5:38–48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

As our dear brother Charlie reveals to us about the mystery of our religion: each day gives us plenty of OPPORTUNITIES to be in charge, like Jesus has said.

The second thing I want y'all to do is to imagine 'the FACE.' You may find this impossible to believe, but once or twice in your pastor's life, when I was expounding to some poor soul who had his own life to live all the mysteries of heaven and earth, when that brave soul finally revealed to me it was time to move on, I got the 'look.' You know it!

It's the look that Jesus gives us when we say the Prayer that HE has given us to pray.

'Love your enemies!' OK, Jesus: YOU...FIRST! And Jesus gives us 'the Look.'

'Oh. Right. He does love those who befoul His Name and Kingdom daily and much. I am walking proof of that.'

Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. 'You first, Jesus!' 'The Look!'

'Oh. Yes. What can be more perfect than to rule over people who do not have it in them to LOOK for Him, much less BOW to Him. So when the next man has no idea that He is dealing with a child of God when He is hurting me... and I bless their curses and pray through their persecutions, the Father I barely know cannot be more pleased...with me. Heaven says then: "Perfect!"'

And because we can show ourselves somewhat less than perfect, He is still King. Despite what the whole of the

world and nearly all of Christendom denies, King Jesus gives us Bread to eat that is still Bread, but is also His Body; Wine to drink that does not change from being wine, but which carries in its womb the Blood shed for us on Calvary. He went first. So we can keep going.

Quick one. At Christmas, to Epiphany, and next week the Baptism of our Lord, the colors in church are white like angels and starlight and clean clothes and all. And to add to this, your pastor picked up altar flowers that are gold and purple among the green stems and leaves.

You are going to see these three colors splashed everywhere for a couple months. For the world, these colors mean it's time to eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.

For you, these three colors tell you, 'King of the Jews! Jesus! King ME! King YOU! Our Baptism! All GIVEN to us!'

Yellow: gold. Purple: myrrh. Green: frankincense.

I tried to look up on my crystal ball here what they mean. Some other king, called REX—Latin for 'king'—has taken the colors over to mean justice and peace and whatever. They are Gentiles; what do we expect.

Dear ones: you will see these three colors everywhere all day for many weeks and even after. See the colors God created and then celebrate: Yes! My King! Perfect and going first and GIVEN all things so much, that all things in heaven and earth have been given to me too in the Name of Jesus.