

Godly Guidance

Matthew 2:1-23

This Advent, I have shared the birth of our Lord through the activity of angels. We started with an *Amazing Announcement* to Mary. Then Joseph had a *Crucial Corrective*. A *Paramount Proclamation* was made to the Shepherds. Today we see *Godly Guidance* being given to the wise men and to Joseph.

Wise Men and His Star

Created order and revealing Jesus

Leading and joyful anticipation

Scripture fulfillment and devout worship (*Micah 5:2*)

Diversion and Safety

Wise men and Herod

Joseph and family

Scripture fulfillment and God's Revealed Will (*Hosea 11:1*)

Ugly and Ignored Christmas Story

Evil and the need for the Savior

Horrendous brutality and unspeakable anguish

Scripture fulfillment and God's Strange Will (*Jeremiah 31:15*)

Concerns and Fine-tuning

Strangers and adversity

Homeward bound and a new direction

Scripture fulfillment (prophets) and a play on words (*Isaiah 11:1*)