

Time Audit Chronicles: Visit of the Wise Men and Flight to Egypt (Matthew 2)

Prologue: Searching for the King

The stars twinkled brightly in the clear Presswood backyard sky as Ryan leaned back in a deck chair, pointing his laser pointer at constellations for Ariel and Alice. The two girls lay bundled under a cozy quilt on the lawn, gazing up at the sparkling expanse. Mr. Fluffernutter, Alice's trusty stuffed bunny, peeked out from under the covers.

"Do you see that one?" Ryan asked, tracing a pattern. "That's Orion. Ancient travelers used stars like these to guide their journeys."

"Like GPS but way harder," Ariel quipped, adjusting her glasses for a better look.

Alice squinted at the sky. "Do you think anyone ever followed a star to find treasure?"

Ryan smiled, his eyes reflecting the starlight. "Not treasure exactly, but a group of wise men once followed a star to find someone far more important—a king."

"A king?" Ariel asked, intrigued.

"Not just any king," Ryan explained. "The King of Kings. These wise men—Magi, they were called—traveled from faraway lands to find Jesus. Their journey was incredible, and what happened afterward changed history."

Alice sat up, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter. "Can we see it? Can we follow the star too?"

Ryan grinned, already imagining the journey. "I think the Time Audit Machine might just take us there. What do you say?"

"Let's go!" Ariel said, jumping to her feet.

The Journey Begins: Following the Star

The Time Audit Machine hummed with anticipation as Ariel set the controls. The air was thick with excitement as Ryan helped Alice buckle in, while Mr. Fluffernutter sat proudly on the console, "supervising."

"Destination: Judea. Time period: around 4-6 BCE. Objective: witness the journey of the Magi and the flight to Egypt."

Ariel gave the final confirmation, and with a swirl of lights and a sound like rushing wind, the garage disappeared.

When the motion stopped, the Presswoods found themselves on the edge of a vast desert. The air was crisp and cool, the sand shimmering under a canopy of stars.

“Look!” Alice exclaimed, pointing to a particularly brilliant star in the sky. “That must be the one!”

“It is,” Ryan said, his voice full of awe. “The Star of Bethlehem.”

In the distance, they spotted a caravan—a long line of camels and riders moving steadily across the sands.

“Those are the wise men,” Ariel guessed, pulling out her tablet. “Let’s follow them!”

Meeting the Magi: A King Worth Searching For

The Presswoods approached the caravan cautiously, their clothes blending with the travelers' robes thanks to the Time Audit Machine’s disguises.

“Greetings, travelers,” one of the Magi said, his tone kind but curious. “Are you following the star as well?”

“We are,” Ryan replied. “Where is it leading you?”

The Magi exchanged knowing glances. “To the one born King of the Jews. We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

Alice’s eyes widened. “You’re going to see Baby Jesus!”

“Indeed,” another Magi said, stroking his beard. “The prophecies speak of this child, whose reign will never end.”

Ariel leaned forward. “How do you know the prophecies?”

The Magi smiled. “We have studied the writings of the prophets, such as Balaam’s words: ‘There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.’” (Numbers 24:17)

As the caravan pressed onward, Ariel whispered to Ryan, “They’re using both the star and the Scriptures to find Him. That’s incredible.”

“God’s guidance is always complete,” Ryan replied. “The star pointed the way, but the Scriptures confirmed the destination.”

The Visit to King Herod

The scene shifted as the Presswoods followed the Magi to Jerusalem. They entered the grand court of King Herod, where the Magi sought information.

“We have come to find the one born King of the Jews,” one of the Magi announced. “Where is He, that we may worship Him?”

Herod’s face darkened, though he masked his displeasure with a forced smile. “The King of the Jews, you say?” he replied. “When exactly did this star appear?”

The Magi explained their journey, and Herod summoned his chief priests and scribes. “Where is this Christ supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” one scribe answered. “For thus it is written by the prophet, ‘And thou Bethlehem... out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.’” (Micah 5:2)

Herod’s false smile widened. “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, bring word to me, so that I may also worship Him.”

“Liar,” Alice whispered loudly to Ryan, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter.

“He’s definitely not telling the truth,” Ryan whispered back. “Herod felt threatened by Jesus, even as a baby.”

The Visit to Bethlehem

The Presswoods followed the Magi as they traveled to Bethlehem, where the brilliant star stopped over a modest house. Inside, Mary sat cradling the young Jesus, her face serene and full of love.

The Magi entered reverently, their rich robes contrasting with the humble surroundings. They knelt before the child, presenting gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

“Gold for His kingship,” Ryan whispered to Ariel and Alice. “Frankincense for His divine nature. And myrrh... for His suffering and death.”

“They knew what He would do,” Ariel said softly.

“They believed the promises,” Ryan replied.

Mary thanked the Magi, her voice filled with gratitude. As they left, the air shimmered again, signaling another shift.

The Warning and Flight to Egypt

The Presswoods found themselves outside a simple home in Bethlehem. Joseph was pacing, his expression troubled.

“What’s wrong?” Ariel asked quietly.

“He’s had a dream,” Ryan said.

At that moment, Joseph turned to Mary. “An angel came to me,” he said urgently. “Herod will seek the child to destroy Him. We must flee to Egypt tonight.”

Mary gathered Jesus quickly, and the family prepared to leave.

The Presswoods followed them into the night, watching as they embarked on their journey to safety. The stars above seemed to offer silent reassurance.

Returning Home: The King Who Could Not Be Stopped

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the Presswoods in thoughtful silence.

“Herod was so afraid of losing his throne, he tried to stop Jesus before He even grew up,” Ariel said, shaking her head.

“But he couldn’t,” Ryan said. “No one can stop God’s plans. Jesus was protected because His mission was too important to fail.”

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “The wise men followed the star and gave Jesus gifts. But what can we give Him?”

Ryan smiled. “Our hearts, Alice. That’s the gift He treasures most.”

Reflection: The King Worth Seeking

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 2:

“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

As her voice filled the room, the Presswoods reflected on the incredible journey of the Magi and the courage of Mary and Joseph.

“Jesus wasn’t just a king for His time,” Ryan said. “He’s the King for all time. And His story began with people who were willing to follow, to trust, and to believe.”

Takeaway: Following the Star

The visit of the wise men and the flight to Egypt show us that Jesus is the King worth seeking and the Savior worth trusting. Just as the Magi followed the star and gave their treasures, we are called to follow Him with our lives, knowing that His light will always lead us to truth and hope.