

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



STATE OF ILLINOIS

GRAND PRELATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness but the darkness has not understood it." That, my dear Fraters is the true and real beginning of the Christmas Story.

We have a great God who created us, wanted a relationship with us, and we rejected him because we felt that He was NOT ENOUGH!! He created us and lost us because we rejected Him. The Old Testament is a history of punishment for that rejection, the destruction of the whole world, the creation and destruction of the Kingdom of Israel, and temples that never really fix the rejection. God had no plan B, He only has plan A. The Birth of Jesus is the beginning of that final act of God's redemptive love planned from the beginning before creation. God always meant for us to have a choice in loving Him. We are not mere puppets but created beings with the full choice to LOVE THE ONE who created us.

A Christmas Song that I learned as a child is, "WISE MEN STILL ADORE HIM!"! It depicts Magi, Kings, Wise men, we're not sure who they really were. They came from somewhere east of Jerusalem. God allowed them to see a great star appear in the East. With the knowledge of the ancients who knew to study the skies, they knew that they were to search for THE KING OF THE JEWS. At great cost, danger, and Herod's court of intrigue they persevered on until they reached their destination. They found the Child with His Mother in a house in Bethlehem. They bowed, gave homage, and presented gifts of enormous wealth that God would use to preserve this Holy Family in their escape to Egypt from evil King Herod.

Are you among the WISE? Do you seek the great KING? When you find Him, will you worship Him? At what cost would you search and when found what will you present to your great KING, SAVIOR, LORD, & LOVER OF YOUR SOUL? The only gift HE wants is you and your love!!

WISE MEN STILL ADORE HIM! DO YOU?



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