

Feast of Epiphany

January 3, 2021

Once again in this Christmas Season we have delightful readings. Trito-Isaiah welcomes the sojourners back from slavery in Bablylon to restore Jerusalem, and their Home Temple. Thoughts of darkness to light, depression to hope, sadness to abundant joy all surround the reader with delight.

Then of course in Matthew's infancy narrative we have a drama of intrigue which follows this family for the rest of their lives. It is the Wise Strangers from the EAST who bring the news of a "new king" to Herod. As the Jewish King, Herod was not unaware of the threat of being challenged by a New King who would appear on his horizon. But who would have imagined that threat coming as a poor child born in a manger?

As Herod listened to the Wise Men, their story began to ring true to the book of the prophet Isaiah. Out of darkness this king shall come, out from foreign lands Nations who walk in darkness, shall come; from Sheba they shall come bearing Gold and Frankincense searching for this new hope.

And then there was this star! a star shall lead them.

So here is this drama: The Protagonist [the good guy] and the Antagonist [the bad guy], the searching Kings, and of course the Star. The beautiful cosmic star. But we also have this Feast of Epiphany, which means to reveal, to be enlightened. Matthew presents his Gospel giving us insight, to reveal the meaning of the drama. God is with us! That is the message. God is with us, Now and always. Today, tonight, and tomorrow, Not just at Advent time, but ALWAYS. God is never without us, just as we are never without God. Christmas is a drama revealing the nature of God: God is LOVE. Please get that; Christmas is a story about a God who WANTS us.