

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study

Date: January 5, 2020

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12.

Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ's birth. In Rome, by 354 Christ's birth was being celebrated on December 25, and later in the 4th century the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles. In the East it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation that the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man. The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

(Portions taken from Britannica.com and Wikipedia)

1. Read Isaiah 60:1-6 as well as Psalm 72:1-7 and 10-14. What do these scriptures tell us about the "incarnation"?
 - a. Christ is the light (and glory of God) who has come to the Earth (Isaiah 60:1-3, and also John and 1 John).
 - b. Christ carries with Him the justice and righteousness of God himself.
 - c. Christ brings hope to the oppressed (Psalm 72:4).
 - d. Christ will endure (Psalm 72:5).
 - e. Christ draws people to himself, including people from outside of Israel (Isaiah 60:6, Psalm 72:10-11).

2. What does Psalm 72:3 equate with the prosperity that Christ would bring? _____

3. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Taking into account the scriptures we've already read, why was this scene in Matthew 2:1-2 seen as fulfillment of the prophecies about the coming Messiah?

4. How, according to 2:5-6, did the chief priests and teachers of the law know where the Messiah was to be born? _____

5. Read Ephesians 3:1-12. How has the historic Christian church connected this scene with The call of Paul, which is described in Ephesians 4:1? _____

6. What is the hope given in 4:6, that we celebrate for ourselves in Epiphany? _____

7. If the Magi represent the grace of God for the Gentiles, then how did they respond to that grace (Isaiah 60:6, Psalm 72:10-11, Matthew 2:2, 11)? _____

8. How will you respond to the grace God has given to you, in Christ? _____
