

## STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS 31 DEC 2023

### Ephesians 3:20-21 – Slide 1

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### Philippians 1:3-5 – Slide 2

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, <sup>5</sup> in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

### Slide 3

**Purpose: LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.**

**Mission: GIVE HOPE. MAKE DISCIPLES.**

### LOVE GOD Slide 4

Worship Attendance Growth – 750 to 1000

Started New Prayer Team – Sundays at 8am

**MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE DO: Pray and Worship**

### LOVE PEOPLE Slide 5

\$60K Given to Tornado Relief

\$2500 paid Mt Olive Baptist Deductible

\$2500 deductible paid to the Linville Family – one of our own

\$5K in gift cards given

\$5K Given to YAIPaks

Gave away thousands of supplies

Over 1000 hot meals given out in 5 days

Over 100 volunteers in a two week period

**SECOND MOST IMPORTANT THING WE DO: Help People**

### GIVE HOPE – Slide 6

Giving – Growth in General Fund giving 1.5 million to 1.9 million

Benevolence – thousands given to help community

Hosted multiple events of our school system here

2 Manna Mobile Pantries

### GIVE HOPE – Slide 7

10 Mission Partners that we support financially

3 International – MVN, Chosen Children's, Ethnos 360

7 Local – YAIPaks, Manna Café, Hope Pregnancy, FCA, CEF, BCM

Baptist Mission Causes – tens of thousands of dollars

### MAKE DISCIPLES – Slide 8

Salvations/Baptisms – 113 church year

Officially Launched Dunbar Cave to the community

Started 12 new FAMILY GROUPS

Student Huddles – Grown 50%

Women's and Men's Ministries grown tremendously

### CAMPUS UPDATES – Slide 9

Dunbar Cave - 63 to 85 in worship, 13 baptisms

Tylertown – 213 to 270 in worship, 32 baptisms

### 2024 Budget Slide 10 – 4 Mission Lanes Pie Chart

Love God – 24%

Love People – 22%

Give Hope – 23%

Make Disciples – 31%

### 2024 VISION – Slide 11

#### DISCIPLE-MAKING VISION

PRAYER – 21 Days of Prayer, FIRST SUNDAYS

READ YOUR BIBLE – DEVO RESOURCE WALL

RECURRING GIVING

INVEST AND INVITE

## 2024 VISION – Slide 12

### ALL IN VISION

**CHILDREN:** New Children's Minister, Launch Sango Learning Center

**CLARKSVILLE:** Help 30 families with housing assistance

**CHURCH:** Raise 9 million for Hope Park and Church Building

### A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS

**TEXT:** Matthew 2:1-12

**MEANING:** The magi lived for the Kingdom of God

**BIG IDEA:** A tale of two kingdoms

**OBJECTIVE:** I want the hearers to live for God's Kingdom

**THEME:** Characteristics of each Kingdom

### READ Matthew 2:1-12

Numbers 22–24 tells how Moabite King Balak hired Balaam to curse the Israelites, but God would only permit Balaam to speak words of blessing and prophecy. Part of that prophecy concerned the coming of the Christ, including the foretelling of the star.

### Numbers 24:17

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near:  
a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;  
it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

This image would also call to mind the adoration of Christ by the Magi, since it was a star that led them to the nativity. In fact, many Church Fathers wrote that Balaam belonged to the race and profession of the Magi, who would have known to look for the star because of Balaam's prophecy. Thus the Magi knew of the birth of Christ from a curse turned into a prophecy.

[https://sjvlaydivision.org/balaams-star/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CTherefore%20there%20is%20one%20and,\(Num%2024%3A17\)%E2%80%A6](https://sjvlaydivision.org/balaams-star/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CTherefore%20there%20is%20one%20and,(Num%2024%3A17)%E2%80%A6)

Also, the three gifts that these magi bring are incredibly significant. Gold was a gift for a King, frankincense was a gift meant for a priest, and myrrh is a spice used to prepare bodies for burial. So the gifts speaks directly to Christ being King and the great High Priest and to the truth that He had come to die for our sins. How did they know to give Him these gifts?

Daniel 6 we learn that the godly Hebrew Daniel rose to prominence in the Assyrian empire of the East to ruler over the royal officials, which could have very much included all the magi. One cannot help but assume the magi of Daniel's day had been discipled and taught by Daniel himself about the coming Messiah. Daniel most likely knew of the prophecy of Balaam and spoke to them concerning the coming Messiah, and on top of that the Lord gave Daniel the famous 70 weeks prophecy during his time as ruler over the officials of Persia which says that approximately 490 years from that time (70 weeks of years or 70 times 7) would be the time when the Messiah would come to earth. So quite possible it had been passed down for centuries that the Jewish Messiah would come at this particular time for a very particular purpose.

### SO WHAT YOU HAVE HERE ARE MOST LIKELY DISCIPLES OF DANIEL WHO WERE CELEBRATING THE FULFILLMENT OF A PROPHECY THAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN NEARLY A MILLENNIUM BEFORE THIS!

King Herod is arguably the most wealthy and influential man in the world outside of the emperor of Rome himself. Herod the Great had amassed unbelievable wealth through the spice trade. Herod expanded the Temple in Jerusalem and built incredible fortresses at places like Masada and Herodium. He and Egyptian queen Cleopatra established a monopoly on the extraction of asphalt from the Dead

Sea which was used in ship building. The Romans leased copper mines from Herod in Cyprus.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod\\_the\\_Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great))

It's been said like this, Herod the Great was so wealthy that by today's standards Elon Musk and Bill Gates would be cutting Herod's grass.

Herod the Great wanted no rival to His influence and glorious reign as King of Judea.

SO WHEN THIS CARAVAN OF ROYAL OFFICIALS FROM THE EAST SHOWS UP AT HIS DOORSTEP HE SEES AN IMMEDIATE EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HIS AUTHORITY, WEALTH, AND INFLUENCE.

So, what we see here is A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS. Christ's vs. Herod's. It's a picture of the battle between the KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD.

JESUS – THE KING OF HEAVEN

Satan – is the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air

**This passage is so indicative of the battle that goes on in our lives EVERY DAY! WHAT KINGDOM ARE YOU LIVING FOR?**

Is Jesus a THREAT TO YOUR WAY OF LIFE or is He the KING OF YOUR LIFE? WHEN YOU CONSIDER LIVING FOR JESUS DO YOU CONSIDER ALL THAT YOU WILL LOSE, OR DO YOU JOYFULLY SEE ALL YOU WILL GAIN?

In this passage we see two very different lifestyles, only one of which is right before God.

**HEROD – LIVING FOR THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD – all below on same slide**

- 1. PRIDE – Jesus was a threat to Herod's glory**
- 2. POWER – Jesus was a threat to Herod's control**
- 3. POSSESSIONS – Jesus was a threat to Herod's wealth**

Some of the most wealthy and influential people in the world are motivated by incredible insecurity. Herod was one of the most wealthy and powerful people in the history of mankind; yet history shows him to be one of the most insecure people ever to walk the face of the earth.

UNTIL YOU SETTLE THAT CHRIST IS YOUR PROVIDER AND PROTECTOR EVERYTHING THAT COMES INTO YOUR LIFE WILL BE VIEWED AS A THREAT. THAT'S WHY GIVING IS SO IMPORTANT. IT IS A RADICAL DECLARATION THAT JESUS IS MY PROVIDER.

**MAGI – LIVING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD – all below on same slide**

- 1. HUMILITY – they fell down and worshipped**
- 2. GENEROSITY – they gave extravagant gifts**
- 3. INTEGRITY – they went home another way**

This encounter provided a golden opportunity for the magi to establish an advantageous relationship with one of the most wealthy and influential leaders in the known world. Yet, they wanted nothing to do with his narcissism.

**In 2024 will you LIVE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD OR YOUR OWN?**