THE FIRST TREE TOPPER

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, **2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Matt 2:1-2 (KJV)

 My wife, Kathie, loves to decorate the Christmas tree. I suppose I am sort of a Grinch because getting the tree from storage and getting it up and fluffed is such a chore, but I love to watch Kathie do her decorating. She doesn’t want anyone else helping for she knows right where she wants every single ornament. Some things have changed, but much has stayed the same when it comes to our tree. The children’s ornaments have been rotated from front and center to the sides and the grandchildren’s have taken their place. Another thing that has changed is our tree topper. We started out with a star then we had a star that was lit. Now we have a bow. The bow is pretty, in fact, it is very pretty but there was always something about having a star.

 The star at the top of the tree always represented the special Christmas star that shone so bright for the wise men of the east, the magi that sought to find the one who was born king of the Jews. The birth of God’s Son affected the celestial body. Men who studied the astronomical world saw by the new star that Jesus was born. It not only testified of Jesus birth but would guide them to Jesus. One can only imagine what a glorious light this star was.

 I know that the wise men did not present their gifts at the manger in the stable but I do think that these men first discovered this star when Jesus was born. Therefore I like to observe the arrival of the wise men at Christmas because when they presented their gifts they were celebrating the birth of Christ.

 Kathie has a collection of nativity scenes that she puts in many of the rooms of our house at Christmas. One that she treasures highly is a large twenty-four piece Willow Tree nativity. She started with Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Each year following I would give her a new piece each year. The first addition was the crèche or stable, and then we added the donkey, camel, cow and etc. After a few years we finally acquired the star.

 Scripture says that the star which led the magi stood over where the young child was. Luke doesn’t mention the star but it is told that when the angel spoke to the shepherds that the glory of the Lord shone round about them. Well, my thinking is this: if the glory of the Lord was shining all around a few angels what do you think was happening all around his Holy Son in that stable in Bethlehem.

 So hang the star on the tree but better yet, be that star for Jesus that testifies of his life, death and resurrection. Be that star that is always leading the lost to Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram