

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah** chapter **60** verses **1-6**, which can be found on page **894** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

¹Arise, Jerusalem, rise clothed in light; your light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. For, though darkness covers the earth and dark night the nations the Lord shall shine upon you and over you shall his glory appear; and the nations shall march towards your light and their kings to your sunrise.

Lift up your eyes and look all around: they flock together, all of them, and come to you; your sons also shall come from afar, your daughters walking beside them leading the way. Then shall you see, and shine with joy, then your heart shall thrill with pride: the riches of the sea shall be lavished upon you and you shall possess the wealth of nations.

Camels in droves shall cover the land, dromedaries of Midian and Ephah, all coming from Sheba laden with golden spice and frankincense, heralds of the Lord's praise.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **2** verses **1-12**, which can be found on page **4** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of Herod. After his birth astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay him homage.' King Herod was greatly perturbed when he heard this; and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the chief priests and lawyers of the Jewish people, and put before them the questions: 'Where is it that the Messiah is to be born?'

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Trish Haycock

'At Bethlehem in Judaea', they replied; and they referred him to the prophecy which reads: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are far from least in the eyes of the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a leader to be the shepherd of my people Israel.'

Herod next called the astrologers to meet him in private, and ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared. He then sent them on to Bethlehem, and said, 'Go and make a careful inquiry for the child. When you have found him, report to me, so that I may go myself and pay him homage.'

They set out at the king's bidding; and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay. At the sight of the star they were overjoyed. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and bowed to the ground in homage to him; then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned home another way.

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.