THE STORY OF THE THREE WISE MEN

presented by

Clive and Linda Billenness
Parish of Lower Nidderdale
North Yorkshire
England

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Word of God
SCENE 1  
CASPAR’S HOUSE IN BABYLON

Timon  Hello, I’m Timon. I live here in Babylon with my master, Melchior. He’s one of what they call the Magi. He’s a really clever man who knows all about the stars and things. He’s very rich, and sometimes he gets mistaken for a king. He and the other Magi often go travelling all over the world, and I usually go with them, to look after the camels, make the meals and things. I especially remember one of our adventures a long time ago - let me tell you about it.

Once in a far off eastern land on a night so long ago
A clever man called Melchior was pacing to and fro

Melchior  I’ve watched the stars for many years and know them all by sight
Well at least I thought I did until I looked tonight
There’s one new star that dazzles my eyes and makes me wonder why
This single star outshines by far all others in the sky.

Timon  He sat and puzzled deeply then suddenly called out

Melchior  I’ll need some help if I am ever to figure this thing out
I know, I’ll send for Balthazar and for Caspar too
I’m sure that all together we’ll work out what to do
Timon go and get my friends as soon as your work is done
With three wise men, perhaps, why not, aren’t three heads wiser than one?

Timon  So off I went across the town and told his friends come quick
But I had to reassure them my master wasn’t sick
When we got back to Melchior’s house they gathered in the middle
And Caspar said

Caspar  I do believe that I can solve this riddle
Perhaps it means that very soon there’s going to be a birth
A Prince - no - more - a King - the ruler of the Earth

Timon  Then Balthazar said

Balthazar  I recall the promise of a star in one old Jewish book
That meant the coming of a King - we ought to go and look

Timon  They read and read and read some more until my my master spied
An ancient Jewish holy scroll

Melchior  That’s it, that’s it

Timon  He cried
Melchior  See, read, it says a star will come from Jacob - which means the Jews
Their King will rule the world in peace, this star brought us the news

Balthazar  Quick find a map, we’ll have to go and gifts, too, we must bring
God sent this star we’ll follow it and worship this great King.

Timon  It’s always me who does the work. I hope you realise
It isn’t always easy to gather the supplies
So off we set into the West - but where to start to look
The place of birth wasn’t written in my master’s book.

Caspar  We don’t know where the King will be, which is quite a pity
So I suggest we start our search in Israel’s biggest city

Balthazar  If you mean Jerusalem, where Herod is the King
We ought to go and see him, it’d be the proper thing

Melchior  The route is clear, the light is strong
I hardly think we can go wrong
You can even see it in the day
I never saw a clearer sign to guide us on our way.

SCENE 2  HEROD’S PALACE

Timon  When they reached Jerusalem they went to see the King
They told him all about the star, the book and everything
Herod said

Herod  If you’ve come to see the King, well look, for here I stand
The Romans have put me in charge to rule across this land

Balthazar  Sire you are King in Israel - you stand so proud and tall
But we seek the Prince of Peace and Love - the greatest king of all

Herod  There is a prophesy which speaks of one called the Messiah
To be born in Bethlehem, I beg you go enquire
And when you find this child, come tell me, see you do
So I can go to Bethlehem and worship him like you

Timon  And so we set off once again still the following the star
Until we got to Bethlehem, it wasn’t very far
And there our guiding light stood still, the birthplace we had found

Caspar  It must be that house over there - the star’s shining all around.

Timon  I took the reins and waited while those 3 wise men went on
They entered with their precious gifts from far off Babylon
INSIDE THE STABLE

Timon
Inside the stable a wondrous sight
Filled their hearts with great delight
A babe lay in a wooden manger
Yet smiled towards these three rich strangers
His mother said

Mary
I bid you welcome, tell me what has made you come so far

Balthazar
Dear Lady we were guided by the brightest star
We bring gifts for your new-born son, myrrh, frankincense and gold
To worship here the King of Peace the prophecies foretold

Caspar
Born a king on Bethlehem plain, gold I bring to crown him again
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign

Melchior
Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all are raising, worship him King most high

Balthazar
Myrrh is mine, it’s bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying, sealed in a stone-cold tomb

Mary
I thank you for these wondrous gifts their meaning is quite clear
This child is both the son of God and my son very dear

Timon
And so we left but took great care to go a different way
And not back to Jerusalem wherein great danger lay

Melchior
I’ve had a dream my friends in which an angel did appear
And told me Herod meant to harm the child and we should not go near
Our task is done, we’ve seen the king thanks to this wondrous light
But we must ever keep in mind the child we met tonight

Timon
Well that’s the story of our trip to Israel so many years ago.
I’ve often wondered what happened to that little baby. I can’t quite remember
his name - oh that’s right, it was Jesus.