



CHRIST ENCOUNTERS

Watchers, Wise Men & Waiters

COMPANION STUDY
GUIDE



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Study Guide: Christ Encounters

Episode 2: Watchers, Wise Men & Waiters

This guide is designed to review and deepen understanding of the core themes and details presented in the sermon "When Jesus Interrupts Your Routine | Encountering Christ in the Every Day." It includes a short-answer quiz to test comprehension, an answer key, a series of essay questions for deeper reflection, and a glossary of key terms.

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences, drawing exclusively from the livestream and video recorded on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

What is the significance of the shepherds being described as "watchers" who were performing an ordinary job?

According to the Donna, what is the connection between the wise men in Matthew 2 and the prophet Daniel?

How did the wise men ultimately find Jesus, and what does this teach about seeking God?

Who were Simeon and Anna, and what shared purpose did they have in the temple?

What two specific Old Testament prophecies, mentioned by the speaker, relate to the story of Jesus's birth?

Donna notes that both the shepherds and Mary and Joseph had a similar reaction to the supernatural events. What was this reaction?

What does Simeon's prophecy reveal about the scope of Jesus's salvation?

How does Donna use the timeline of the wise men's journey to illustrate a point about seeking God?

Why does Donna emphasize the importance of being "in the Word of God every day"?

Donna uses the phrase "a long obedience in the same direction." What does this concept mean in the context of the sermon?

Answer Key

- The significance is that they were ordinary men doing their ordinary job. This demonstrates the speaker's theme that God can interrupt everyday life with a supernatural encounter, and one does not have to be a "spiritual giant" to be chosen to hear from Him.
- Donna explains that the wise men were from the line of Babylonian wise men from the time of Daniel. Because Daniel was made chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon, they would have inherited the oral and written traditions about the God of Israel, creating an expectation for the Messiah.
- The wise men first went to Jerusalem, but human leaders could not lead them to Jesus. Ultimately, they found him because the star, a sign from God himself, led them directly to his house, teaching that God himself guides those who are diligently seeking him.
- Simeon and Anna were two elderly, devout people who were constantly in the temple in Jerusalem. They were both waiting expectantly for the coming of the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit led them to recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of that promise.
- Donna cites Micah 5:2, which prophesies that a ruler would come from Bethlehem. The speaker also references Numbers 24:17, which states, "A star shall come out of Jacob," connecting it to the star the wise men followed.

- Both the shepherds (when the angel appeared) and Mary and Joseph (when Simeon prophesied over Jesus) "marveled" at the things being said and done. Mary is specifically noted to have "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart," an act the speaker recommends for processing supernatural moments.
- Simeon's prophecy explicitly states that Jesus's salvation was prepared "before the face of all peoples." He is described as "a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel," showing from the very beginning that the Messiah was not just for the Jews but for all people.
- Donna notes that the wise men's journey likely took up to two years. This long search is used to illustrate that seeking God's will and wisdom requires dedication and discipline, and one should not give up if answers do not come right away.
- Donna emphasizes daily reading of the Word of God as the primary way to learn what God sounds like. This is critical because the enemy can masquerade as God, and only by studying the "true" Word can one discern the false.
- This phrase describes the Christian life as a sustained, disciplined effort of seeking Jesus over a long period. It counters the idea of giving up when things are difficult or answers are slow, encouraging believers to remain faithful in their direction toward God.

Digging Deeper

Instructions: The following questions are designed for deeper reflection and longer-form answers. Use the video material to construct a thorough and thoughtful response.

- Analyze Donna's characterization of the three groups: the "watchers" (shepherds), the "wise men," and the "waiters" (Simeon and Anna). Compare and contrast their circumstances, their actions, and the lessons drawn from their encounters with Christ.

- Discuss the theme of the "supernatural interrupting the ordinary" as it is developed throughout the sermon. Use the examples of the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and Donna's personal anecdote about the flock of birds to illustrate how one can be watchful for God's presence in daily life.

- Explain the historical and spiritual lineage the speaker traces from Daniel and the Babylonian wise men to the Magi who visited Jesus. How does this connection support the argument that God has been speaking "from the foundations of the earth"?
- Examine the role of prophecy in the narrative. How do the prophecies given to Simeon, the prophecy from Simeon, and the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah work together to build a case for God's unfolding plan?
- Synthesize Donna's concluding advice on how a person should live in light of these biblical encounters. What practical steps does the speaker suggest for being a "watcher," being "wise," and "not giving up"?

Glossary of Key Terms

Anna: A prophetess of a great age from the tribe of Asher who was a widow of about 84 years. She never departed from the temple, serving God with fastings and prayers, and spoke of Jesus to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Bethlehem: The city of David in Judea where Jesus was born, as foretold by the prophet Micah. It was the location where the shepherds found the infant Jesus in a manger.

Daniel: An Israelite prophet taken to Babylon who was promoted by King Nebuchadnezzar to be the ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief administrator over all its wise men. His influence created a tradition among the wise men about the God of Israel.

Gentiles: A term for non-Jewish people. Donna emphasizes that from the beginning, as declared by Simeon's prophecy, Jesus came as a light and salvation for the Gentiles as well as for Israel.

Heavenly Host: A multitude of heavenly creatures that appeared with the angel to the shepherds. Donna notes this group is more than just angels and they were praising God and declaring the Messiah's birth.

Herod: The king of Judea at the time of Jesus's birth. He was "troubled" by the news of a newborn "king of the Jews" and secretly plotted to find and kill the child.

Jerusalem: The capital city where the wise men first went to seek the king of the Jews. It was also the location of the temple where Mary and Joseph took Jesus for his dedication and encountered Simeon and Anna.

Micah 5:2: The specific Old Testament prophecy cited by the chief priests and scribes to King Herod, which identified Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah.

Numbers 24:17: An Old Testament prophecy referenced by the speaker: "A star shall come out of Jacob. A scepter shall rise out of Israel." This is connected to the star that guided the wise men.

Glossary of Key Terms

Prophetic Words: Revelations or messages from God. Simeon received a prophetic word that he would not die before seeing the Messiah, and he later gave a prophetic utterance over Jesus and his family.

Simeon: A just and devout man in Jerusalem who was waiting for the "consolation of Israel." The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before his death, a promise fulfilled when he held the infant Jesus in the temple.

Synoptic Gospels: The term used by Donna for the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. She notes they share many of the same stories but from different points of view and encourages reading them comparatively.

Waiters: Donna's term for Simeon and Anna. It describes their posture of living in constant, faithful expectation for the Messiah's appearance in the temple.

Watchers: Donna's term for the shepherds in Luke 2. It highlights that they were diligently performing their duty—"keeping watch over their flocks"—when the supernatural event of the angelic announcement occurred.

Wise Men: Men from the east, identified as Medes and Persians and heirs to the traditions of Daniel's time, who were astrologers. They saw a star announcing the birth of the king of the Jews and journeyed for up to two years to find and worship him, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.