



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*January 12, 2020*

### Dreams, Death, and Deity

Bible Reference: Matthew 2:1-12

Every year we revisit the magi. The magi might be the story that reminds us the most that the devil is actively working to alter our understanding of even Biblical stories. It reminds us that even the story of Jesus' birth can be tainted by images presented to us. Those images put crowns on 3 men and set them at the manger and it completely alters a powerful part of the story of Jesus. I ask myself how much more can I say about the magi, but it is important to annually destroy the false images that even we put in our homes. I'd love to say I don't have 3 men in crowns at the manger scene at my house, but it's just not true since it is almost impossible to find a nativity set without them.

For the record, let's state the facts. We have no idea how many magi there were. They were not kings, and likely not very wise. They have some connection with dream interpretation, but all of our records show they are not very successful at it. Yet, these men are indeed important, and they did bring 3 gifts. Thinking about those facts, there are three themes that stand out to me this year: dreams, death, and deity.

*Dreams* – We have a lot of dreams, some of them we remember and others we forget, but Scripture time and time again says they are important. We spend very little time interpreting dreams or thinking about them.

*Death* – Everyone must answer the question of what happens at death. King Herod and the magi are no different. Death is often a tool to manipulate people, and King Herod and the magi make decisions with this in mind.

*Deity* – Everyone must answer how we got here and how we function. Essentially, everyone ends up picking a deity, even if it is themselves or nature.

Dreams, death and deity are themes that impact everyone. No one is left out. People can choose to not talk about these, but they will have to face them one day. On a weekend when we celebrate Epiphany, we'll talk about what happens when people encounter Christ, and how that changes their view of dreams, death, and of course...deity. See you Sunday.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*