

The background features a dark blue night sky with a prominent starburst at the top center. To the left, a colorful nebula in shades of pink, orange, and purple stretches across the frame. Below the sky, a dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible. The text is overlaid on this scene in white.

The *Joy* Of  
Encountering *Christ*  
Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

## **The Visit of the Wise Men**

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to worship him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.













# 1) RESENTMENT & FEAR -

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, **he was troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him;

## WHAT ARE THESE PHOBIAS -

**1. CHRISTOUGENNIATIKOPHOBIA**

**2. SANTAPHOBIA**

**3. DORONOPHOBIA**

**4. CRYOPHOBIA**

**5. IPOVLOPSYCHOPHOBIA**

**6. PYROPHOBIA**



## **2) RESISTANCE & APATHY -**

**4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:**

**6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."**



A night sky with a starry galaxy and a mountain silhouette. The sky is dark blue and purple, with a bright, starry band of light stretching across the upper half. Below the sky, a dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible against the lighter sky. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

**“The worst chains are those  
which are neither felt nor  
seen by the prisoner.” -**

- J.C. Ryle

A night sky with a starry galaxy and a mountain silhouette. The sky is dark blue and purple, with a bright, starry band of light stretching across the upper portion. Below the sky, the dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible against the lighter background.

**“Your life begins to end the moment  
you start being silent about the  
things that matter.”**

*— Martin Luther King, Jr.*



### **3) REVERENCE & WORSHIP -**

**9** After listening to the king, **they went** on their way....**10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** And going into the house, they **saw the child** with Mary his mother, and **they fell down and worshiped him**. Then, opening their treasures, **they offered him gifts**, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



## **5 ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP -**

- i) Worshipping Jesus is an act of the will**
- ii) Worshipping Jesus is full of joy**
- iii) Worshipping Jesus humbles us**
- v) Worshipping Jesus costs us**
- v) Worshipping Jesus leads to obedience**



**“Those who look for Jesus will see him: those who truly see him will worship him: those who worship him will consecrate their substance to him.”**

*— Spurgeon*