

The Wise Guys

Bud (Humming to himself) Now then I need to make up the horoscopes for the newspaper this week. What can I put? I know, "Cancer: You will find that, though tasty, any milk-based product will cause you to come out in hives. Avoid those who say '-ish' at the end of words, especially those who leave a pregnant (pause) -ish pause beforehand. The fall of Leo into the house of Capricorn will also result in a change of fortune, but not necessarily for the better. Don't wear corduroy trousers with a red top. Your lucky animal is a pigmy shrew and your lucky vegetable is the courgette

Guy (Comes in and taps Bud on the shoulder) Excuse me, I'm sorry it's so late, but I was passing, saw the light on and thought I'd get up to speed on how things run. Is this the Horoscopes and Hints department?

Bud It is my friend and who are you?

Guy Mr. Wise, Guy and you are?

Bud The astronomer astrologer, Bud Wise

Guy Er?

Bud Seems we've got the same surnames, you're not my mothers, fathers, nephew twice removed are you?

Guy No he's far better looking than you. Actually I'm here as the new sage, to give helpful hints and advice, you know such as "When crossing the Sahara, save money on maps by using a sheet of sand paper."

Bud Hmm very wise Guy. Now if you'll excuse me I just need another peek at the night sky, to finish off these horoscopes. (Goes to look out the window) Hang on I've never noticed that before....

Guy What is it?

Bud It's an intergalactic quasar and it's over a million, million miles away - the temperature at the surface is a trillion times hotter than our sun and its light is incredibly intense. And there's a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces I'm as sure as my name is Bud Wise

Guy Er... so it's a new star then?

Bud Yes and incredibly bright and a bit low in the sky for this time of year. You're the sage Guy, what do you make of it?

Guy I'm feeling more of a parsley at the moment Bud, at times like this, I find pacing the floor and stroking my beard helps – join me. (They pace the floor and stroke their beards. Suddenly Guy stops and holds up his hand) By Jehovah I think I've got it! But I'm not sure I like it.

Bud Are we going to be visited by strange beings posing as Ancient Egyptians?

Guy (With awe) No I think the Messiah is coming...

Bud What you mean the one the Jews have been waiting for, the one who is going to put the world to rights and take away its sin? Oh come on since when have we taken any notice of those old myths?

Guy Well, I try not to because it would mean giving up the day job, and lets face it this making up horoscopes and stuff is a cushy number.

Bud Now that's not very wise Guy, I mean why would that be a problem? Come on it's only sad old ladies and poor people hoping for a better future that read our stuff anyway and he's not going to be interested in them.

Guy Well it's an issue..

Bud Bless you

Guy (Slowly) No it's an issue, because if it is him, then it means the prophecies are true and that means God really is the one true God, and that means obeying the rules and Deuteronomy 19:19 says "Do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens ... the Lord hates these things."

Bud Hmm Lets be sure we're right before we panic.. What do those prophecies say?

Guy Well – now lets remember these were written 500 years ago - there's Isaiah 7:14 "The Lord himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel--God is with us."

Bud I did hear rumours that there was a young lass over in Nazareth had a bit of bother with a so called 'special little miracle' but she was barking, said an angel had told her all about it, at least we're only seeing stars!

Guy Well then there's Isaiah 9:6 "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." And Micah 5:2-4 has this in it, "Bethlehem..

Bud Have you got something stuck, cough it up lad

Guy No, I'm trying to tell you where the king will be born

Bud Look prophecies are all very well, but we make ours up, so maybe they did, lets get more scientific, where is that star pointing at? (Goes over to the window and starts doing calculations) There see it's over Bethlehem, now that's hardly the place for a King to be born is it? It's a tiny little one donkey village in Judah, they've not even got a MacDonald's. Why the best accommodation there is Solid Rock Cafe, one of those theme inns where they have celebrity memorabilia everywhere. Apparently Moses' staff was in the restaurant but they had to move it because the cream kept separating.

Guy (A bit cross) Bud Wise!

Bud Er?

Guy Micah 5:2-4 says the King will be born in Bethlehem

Bud Panics What are we going to do? I don't want the wrath of God on me....

Guy I think we'll be OK listen to Isaiah 55 "Seek the Lord while you can find him. Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to God, for he will abundantly pardon.' See we need to seek out this King then he'll forgive what we've done and give us a better life!

Bud Well what are you standing around there for, get your camels!

Guy Bud don't you think it's a bit rude to turn up at a birth without presents?

Bud You're right, now we know those prophecies are true I have just the things (Disappears down and comes back up with presents) Gold – because he is a king, frankincense – because he is God with us, and Myrrh because one day he will die for our sins and then conquer death.

Guy Come on no more delay, get those camels saddled up and then I'm afraid you'll have to take over the directions since you're the star expert.

Bud That's no problem... first star on the right, then straight on til morning.