

By Edgar Solís

In western society, video games are a very important part of entertainment. How many of you have played a video game? Now, something I consider very interesting in today's video games is that in order to win or to solve the video game you have to pay attention to the secret or hidden signs video gamers call Easter eggs. What are they? Well, an Easter egg is an intentional inside joke, hidden message or feature. The term was coined at Atari, one of the first video game companies. Atari personnel were alerted to the presence of a secret message which had been hidden by game designer Warren Robinett in his already widely distributed game, *Adventure*. Atari designers at the time were not given credit for their games, because the company feared having to bargain with well-known designers. In response to this, Robinett placed a hidden virtual object in the game that would allow the player to reach a hidden screen which displayed the words "Created by Warren Robinett", hence creating one of the earliest known Easter Eggs in a video game and the first time to which the name "Easter egg" was applied.

Some of the best video game Easter eggs are in classic games, but it seems gamers are constantly discovering new cool Easter eggs in modern games as well.

Many times our Christian journey is like a video game, this wouldn't be hard to understand for the younger generations...you have to persist and find God's epiphanies ...”Easter eggs” on the road. Epiphany means "showing forth."

Scripture:

One of Matthew's major themes is that God's salvation extends beyond Jesus' immediate Jewish community to include the Gentiles as well (in other words, open to all). The visit of the Magi

foreshadows this broad message of inclusion. Matthew's message is clear: *not only supposed insiders, but also supposed outsiders are within the great circle of divine love.*

The Magi are “wise ones,” scholars who study the stars for signs and omens. They came from afar to see the promise of God made flesh in a child...many Christmas cards feature a bright star hovering over the holy family, but Matthew’s story suggests otherwise. **Only the Magi notice the star among the thousands of others visible on a clear night** and King Herod’s dependence on the visitors to lead him to the child indicates that neither he nor his assassins could follow the star without help. Matthew’s theme here is **the hiddenness of Christ**, the small and often unnoticed ways God enters our lives in epiphanies large and small. **This hiddenness is a kind of divine signature, as a video game designer’s Easter egg:** instead of "showing forth" conspicuously at the Temple, God slips into the world by way of a poor family in a backwater town. And instead of "showing forth" to a crowd of supposed insiders, God will be noticed first by strangers from a foreign land, “wise ones from the East.” God does indeed show forth - but in **a hidden way**. Where do you see God in your life? Are you waiting for a spectacular demonstration of God’s presence in your life? Maybe...just maybe... you just have to pay attention to God’s signs in your life. Where is the Easter Egg?

Takeaways:

This may be the perfect week to reflect on “epiphanies,” Easter eggs on our journey...the ways (great and small) God shows forth in our lives, and the ways we notice or overlook those showings. What are the marks, the signatures of divine presence? Wonders are sometimes subtle, sometime hidden, often unnoticed so how can we see the epiphanies in our own lives?

First, careful, patient study and contemplation of ancient stories and small marvels, like the Magi studying their charts.

Second, stay alert to contrast: part of how Jesus “shines forth” is through contrast with the imperious, oppressive dominion and pride of the King Herods of the world.

And third, be open to following Jesus on his pathway of vulnerability, humility, and grace, walking with supposed outsiders and other questionable characters (like us!). Amen.