

GIFTS FOR THE UNWORTHY

17/12/23

The nature of gift giving in the western world stems from concepts clearly established in the bible. From the scriptural point of view, Creation, Life and Eternal life are all gifts that no one is ever worthy of. This is simply the nature of God... the giver of gifts.

The gifts given to Jesus by the Magi (wise men), represented the destiny he would fulfil as the Son of God... these gifts were also symbolic of the gifts he would grant us... the unworthy.

The birth of Jesus... the saviour of the world was a free gift from God for all who would choose life over death.

The gifts given to Jesus. **MAT 2:9** When they had heard the king (the Magi), they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. **11** And when they **were come into the house** (no longer in the manger), they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; **gold**, and **frankincense**, and **myrrh**. The Bible does not tell us the exact number of wise men, and they were not present for His birth in a manger as is so often depicted, but he was already in a house.

Let's look at the significance of the three gifts.

Gold, the symbol of kings. **DAN 7:13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. & **REV 14:14** And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat **like unto the Son of man**, having on his head **a golden crown**, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Second symbol.

Frankincense; the symbol of Deity. **LEV 2:1** And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put **frankincense** thereon: **2** And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the **frankincense** thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: & **COL 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Third symbol.

Myrrh; an anointing and embalming oil. **JOH 19:38** And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. **39** And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of **myrrh** (embalming oil) and **aloes** (sweet smelling wood), about an hundred pound weight. **40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. *God offered Jesus as a sacrificial gift... Jesus gives us eternal life.*

Right from the beginning the angel prophecies the Lord's purpose on earth... and the great benefits from his sacrifice.

The same summary is prophesied by the angel. **LUK 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his **father David** (genetic descendancy): **33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Peter speaks of the gift of salvation.

ACT 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Ghost.

Paul directs the church to use the gifts they are given... they all have a useful purpose.

1COR 1:7 So that ye come behind in **no gift**; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The gifts within salvation (the powers of the Holy Spirit), are also encouraged to be developed and explained through the rest of the Corinthian letter.

HEB 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. **17** Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **18** Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. *Don't ever confuse the purposes of God with anything else... the choices are the gift of life or eternal nothingness.*

A simple summary of God's nature towards us.

MAT 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give **good gifts** unto your children, **how much more** shall your Father which is in heaven **give good things** to them that ask him? Asking is easy... humility can be hard.

*The **gift** of the holy spirit (free gift) and the many facets of their usage are an ongoing **gift** for every saved individual. Jesus was God's gift to us and we are God's gift to the church and the unsaved.*