

Lesson Notes:

The Gifts of Christmas

When the three wise men came to Bethlehem to worship Jesus they brought with them three gifts which are referred to in the Biblical account of Jesus' birth in **Matthew 2:11**. The three gifts they brought with them were Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Below is a discussion of the significance of each of the three gifts and what we can give to Jesus on Christmas and every day of the year.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Gold** – Doesn't it seem odd to give gold or silver to a baby? Gold is what a person in the time of Christ would normally offer as a gift to a king. By giving Gold to the Christ child they were testifying to the fact that Jesus was their King.
- 2) **Frankincense**. – Again this seems to be an odd gift to give a child. Frankincense was commonly burned in the temple by priests as an offering to the Lord. By giving the gift of Frankincense to Jesus the wise men showed that they considered Jesus not only their God but their priest as well. **Matthew 2: 1-3** tells us that Herrod was not the only one troubled by the arrival of Jesus but the chief priests and scribes were troubled by his arrival as well. Jesus is not only our God but he is our chief priest as well. In **John 14:6** Jesus tells us that he is the only way to God. In **Matthew 27:51** the curtain separating God from man was rent in two at the death of Jesus. This indicates that Jesus had bridged the gap between God and Man. He is both the son of God and our chief priest as well.
- 3) **Myrrh** – Myrrh was a spice used during the time of Christ to place in between the cloth that was used to wrap the body after death. The gift of Myrrh indicated that Christ would die as the appropriation for our sins.

What can we give to Jesus as our Gift to him:

- 4) **Gold** – Obviously we can offer him a portion of our "Gold" he provides to us for good works. But we can also accept the gift of salvation (**John 3:7; 3:16-17**) that Christ offers us (**Ephesians 2:8**) through God's grace.
- 5) **"Frankincense**. – Accept Jesus not only as God but as our Priest. This involves obedience (**1 Samuel 15:22**) and presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice unto the Lord (**Romans 12:1**).
- 6) **When Christ comes Again**. – **Isaiah 60:6** tells us that the gifts brought to Christ on his return include gold and incense but there is no mention of Myrrh. This indicates that he will return as priest and King but will never again endure death as he did to pay for our salvation.