



## Three Gifts and a Fourth

Matthew 2:9-11 [NASB]

**Mat 2:9** After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

**Mat 2:10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

**Mat 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**#1 Gold – Gift for a King** (Precious metal) (432 times mentioned in the Bible.)

### Description of Tributaries Flowing from Eden (1<sup>st</sup> mention of gold in the Bible)

Gen 2:11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is **gold**.

Gen 2:12 The **gold** of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

### Abram/Abraham had such wealth

Gen 13:2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in **gold**.

### Making of the Ark of the Covenant

Exo 25:11 "You shall overlay it [**Ark of the Covenant**] with pure **gold**, inside and out you shall overlay it, and you shall make a **gold** molding around it.

Exo 25:12 "You shall cast four **gold** rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it.

Exo 25:13 "You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with **gold**.

Exo 25:17 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure **gold**, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide.

Exo 25:18 "You shall make two cherubim of **gold**, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat.

### **Precedent for a Gift to the Lord**

Exo 35:5 'Take from among you a contribution to the LORD; whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as the LORD'S contribution: **gold**, silver, and bronze, ... [Regarding the Sabbath and the Tabernacle]

### **Who Owns it?**

Hag 2:8 'The silver is Mine and the **gold** is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.

### **[But don't forget, there are things more precious]**

Pro 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than **gold**! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

1Peter 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than **gold** which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

## #2 Frankincense- Gift for a High Priest (Aromatic resin from trees in Arabia) (Over 40 times mentioned in the Bible.)

### Melchizedek – High Priest and King, Archetype of Jesus

[Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in the Bible and is called a priest forever by the author of Hebrews. Although frankincense is not mentioned as a specific gift for Melchizedek, Abraham did give gifts to him; and frankincense could have easily been among the gifts. Also frankincense did become a part of priestly duties, per the Old Testament verses on pages 3 and 4 below. Hence the gift for a High Priest.]

**Gen 14:18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

**Gen 14:19** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

**Gen 14:20** And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

**Heb 7:1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

**Heb 7:2** to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

**Heb 7:3** Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

### Anointing oil for use by the Priests

**Exo 30:31** "You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, "This shall be a **holy anointing oil** to Me throughout your generations.

**Exo 30:32** 'It shall not be poured on anyone's body, nor shall you make *any* like it in the same proportions; it is holy, *and* it shall be holy to you.

**Exo 30:33** "Whoever shall mix *any* like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people."

**Exo 30:34** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure **frankincense**; there shall be an equal part of each.

**Exo 30:35** "With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy.

### **Burnt offering, offered by the Priests**

**Lev 2:1** 'Now when anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put **frankincense** on it.

**Lev 2:2** 'He shall then bring it to Aaron's sons the priests; and shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil with all of its **frankincense**. And the priest shall offer *it* up in smoke *as* its memorial portion on the altar, an **offering** by fire of a **soothing aroma** to the LORD.

**Lev 24:5** "Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it; two-tenths *of an ephah* shall be *in* each cake.

**Lev 24:6** "You shall set them *in* two rows, six *to* a row, on the pure *gold* table before the LORD.

**Lev 24:7** "You shall put **pure frankincense** on each row that it may be a memorial portion for the bread, *even* an **offering** by fire to the LORD.

### **Prophecy about Jesus (especially about gifts for Him)**

**Isa 60:1** "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**Isa 60:2** "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you.

**Isa 60:3** "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

**Isa 60:4** "Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms.

**Isa 60:5** "Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

**Isa 60:6** "A multitude of camels will cover you, The young camels of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba will come; They will bring **gold** and **frankincense**, And will bear good news of the praises of the LORD.

### **Aroma from the Burnt Offerings (which included frankincense)**

**Num 15:3** then make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering or in your appointed times, to make a **soothing aroma** to the LORD, from the herd or from the flock.

### Aroma (spiritual)

**Php 4:15** You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

**Php 4:16** for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

**Php 4:17** Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

**Php 4:18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a **fragrant aroma**, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

**Note: Over 40 times the Bible talks about the offerings of a “soothing aroma” to God**

**#3 Myrrh – Gift for the Saviour** (Rockrose shrub. Its leaves are coated with a highly aromatic resin, myrrh, mainly from Saudi Arabia) (17 times mentioned in the Bible.)

### **Ishmaelite Caravan as Joseph's Brothers Eat After Throwing Joseph in the Pit**

**Gen 37:25** Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and **myrrh**, on their way to bring *them* down to Egypt.

### **Jacob's 11 Sons Return to Egypt**

**Gen 43:11** Then their father Israel said to them, "If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and **myrrh**, pistachio nuts and almonds.

### **Anointing Oil (similar to frankincense)**

**Exo 30:23** "Take also for yourself the finest of spices: of flowing **myrrh** five hundred *shekels*, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred and fifty, and of fragrant cane two hundred and fifty...

**Exo 30:25** "You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

### **Esther's Beautification Ritual**

**Est 2:12** Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women--for the days of their beautification were completed as follows: six months with oil of **myrrh** and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women--

### **Embalming and Preserving**

**John 19:38** After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

**John 19:39** Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*.

**#4 Jesus - The Most Precious Gift of All for All** (HE is mentioned, and prophesized about, many times throughout the Old Testament; and the New Testament is the “rest of the story” {credit to Paul Harvey}. The Bible is HIS story.)

**Isa 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**Luk 2:10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

**Luk 2:11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 3:17** "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Jesus is God the Father’s most beloved gift to all, HIS Son. But so many have never heard of the gift or have never accepted it. Sadly for so many, it is the gift that is never “unwrapped.”

## So What?

What does this act of homage, the three gifts and a fourth, mean for us? Here are a few thoughts for you to prayerfully consider.

This is the time of year we focus on giving. Paul, in Miletus in Acts 20, speaking to the Elders of the church from Ephesus, recounted what Jesus said about giving:

**Act 20:33** "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

**Act 20:34** "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me.

**Act 20:35** "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**'"

Members of this class are gracious in their giving, as evidenced by the cookies and donations here today [Living Stones Class Christmas Party, Dec 8, 2013]. Many of you are formally involved in Christian ministry organizations. And I know so many others of you contribute time and money to Christian ministries, as well as to the church (Woodmen). Thank you for your service and dedication.

In addition to Jesus' words from Acts, God has instilled giving from the beginning.

**Heb 7:1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

**Heb 7:2** to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

**Num 18:29** 'Out of all your **gifts** you shall present every offering due to the LORD, from all the best of them, the sacred part from them.'

**Eze 20:40** "For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your **gifts**, with all your holy things.

# The Gifts

Thus, as you prepare gifts to others this Christmas, I encourage you to physically prepare four extra gifts/gift boxes to place under the Christmas tree, and conclude your “unwrapping” with these four gifts. You might even consider involving kids or grandkids in the preparation of these gifts. I would suggest adding scripture verses in each of the first three (suggested verses are below) and read them as you open the gift. I have suggested Matt 2:11 be included in all three of the first three gifts.



## #1 Gold – Gift for a King

For this gift, I suggest that you (meaning the family) decide on a special monetary gift that is over and above your normal tithes and offerings. IT IS NOT IMPORTANT HOW MUCH, but just that it be something extra and for some an individual, organization, or ministry that God has specially placed on your heart. If you don't have anything in mind, ask the Lord to place one on your heart. Write the name of the recipient on a piece of paper (and perhaps the amount) and place it in the gift box, along with appropriate scripture verses such as the ones below.

**Mat 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**Exo 35:5** 'Take from among you a contribution to the LORD; whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as the LORD'S contribution: **gold**, silver, and bronze,

Our gift of “GOLD” is to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.



## #2 Frankincense- Gift for a High Priest

For this gift, I think it is more about sacrifice and a non-monetary offering to God, a “soothing aroma.” I suggest that you (meaning the family) decide on a special act of service or a special focus of prayer for some situation, need, individual, organization, or ministry that God has specially placed on your heart, over and above what you would normally plan to do. Write the name of that act of service or prayer focus on a piece of paper and place it in the gift box, along with appropriate scripture verses such as the ones below.

**Mat 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**Num 15:3** then make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering or in your appointed times, to make a **soothing aroma** to the LORD, from the herd or from the flock.

**Php 4:18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a **fragrant aroma**, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Our gift of “FRANKINCENSE” is \_\_\_\_\_.



### #3 Myrrh – Gift for the Saviour

For this gift, I think it is more about a renewed appreciation for and preservation of the heritage of what Jesus has done to save us. I suggest that you (meaning the family) decide to write/record how the Saviour has worked in your life in the past and share that with your family and perhaps even a friend. It could be your testimony or another situation. But it is important that you physically document and share God's heritage for you with others. Write the name of what you plan to write and with whom you plan to share it on a piece of paper and place it in the gift box, along with appropriate scripture verses such as the ones below.

**Mat 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**John 19:39** Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*.

**1Pe 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Our gift of "MYRRH" is to document \_\_\_\_\_ and share it with \_\_\_\_\_.



## **#4 Jesus - The Most Precious Gift of All for All - A Gift Not Unwrapped**

For this gift, this is really a visible, physical testimony of those that are lost. It is NOT to be unwrapped, but left unopened, as a symbol of those who have never heard of God's greatest gift or who have never considered that "GIFT" seriously or accepted it. I suggest you select a person, a group of people, a country, or some other category of people who are lost that you will pray for in 2014. Leave the gift fully wrapped and leave it in a visible spot all year to remind you to pray and as a witness to any lost folks who may come to visit you in 2014.

**Isa 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 3:17** "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Our gift "NOT UNWRAPPED" is to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ in 2014.

### **Closing**

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor a king, high priest, and Saviour. What is physically under your tree and what gifts you may or may not wrap and open are nearly as important as what is in your heart and what you decide to do about it. Grace and peace to you this season, as you remember three gifts and a fourth.