

WCBC SERMON NOTES - DECEMBER 10, 2017

TOPIC: "They Presented Jesus With Gifts!"

TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

INTRO: The Magi from the East!

I. GOLD - Symbol of Christ's Kingship: vv.1-2,11

Note: Gold in Scriptures is often associated with royalty! - I Kings 10:1-2, 10

- Babylon - Jerusalem = 880 kms (550 miles)

Note: 1 km = 12-minute walk (average walking speed for an adult at a normal pace, or 5 kph)

880 kms x 12 minutes = 10,560 minutes

10,560 minutes

- 1,440 minutes (60 minutes x 24 hrs/1 day)

7.3 Days (24-hour non-stop walk)

How Did The Magi Acknowledge Christ As King?

1. By probably reading Isaiah 9:7
2. By asking, "Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews?" - v.2
3. By bowing down before Him - v.11

Note: Bowing down before someone is usually rendered to royalties, especially to kings!

II. INCENSE - Symbol of Christ's Deity: vv.1-2,11

- What is an "incense"?

Note: Deity means godship. Incense is definitely a symbol of Christ's deity - Rev. 8:3-4, esp. v.4

How Did The Magi Acknowledge Christ As God?

1. By giving of the incense - INDIRECT worship (v. 11)
2. By giving personal worship - DIRECT worship(vv.2,11)

The gift of incense points out that the Magi knew that Jesus is more than just a King, as He also is God the Son, God-incarnate! - John 1:1,14

III. MYRRH - Symbol of Christ's Future Sufferings & Death: Mark 15:23;John 19:39-40

- What is "myrrh"?

Myrrh Is Mentioned Twice In Connection With The Sufferings & Death of Christ:

1. Sufferings - when Christ was dying on the Cross (Mark 15:23)
2. Death - when Christ was dead (John 19:39-40 cf. Matthew 26:12)

CONCLUSION: The Gift of Salvation!

Gifts Of The Magi!

There is a beautiful legend about the "three wise men" who followed the star to Bethlehem. It seems that one of them was a young man; and in his youthful idealism he looked for a King. He carried gold, a fitting gift for royalty.

Another was middle-aged; and to satisfy the deep questions that disturbed his maturing mind, he longed to find God. His gift was frankincense with which to worship God whom he hoped to find.

The third was aged; with many a sin-stained year behind him, he longed to discover the Saviour. Feeling that his Saviour must be a sufferer, he took with him a gift of healing myrrh! - Gerald M. Ward

Verse(s) For Today

"For it is grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the GIFT of God - not by works, so that no one can boast!"

- Ephesians 2:8-9

Food For Thought

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God!" - C.S. Lewis

