

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors

Gold - The Gifts to the King

In the scriptures there is a very strong correlation between the color or metal, gold, and the subject of kings or kingdoms. The wise men when seeking for the Christ child referred to him as "king of the Jews." They believed him to be a king and brought gifts that manifest their belief.

Matt. 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, 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." In order to understand the significance of the gifts that were given by the wise men to the Christ child, we must put out of our minds the modern means and purposes of gift giving. Today a gift given to a child is usually based on need or entertainment. We give gifts based on our perceived needs of the child or based on what we think would be good to entertain the child. However, the Christ child had no need for either gold, or frankincense or myrrh. Furthermore, such gifts would have had no value in entertaining the child.

Gifts given back in the days that Jesus was born were given based not on need or entertainment, but rather based on what the gift-givers thought that child would become or accomplish in his life. For instance, a plow might be given to a child if they thought the child would be a farmer. Also a book might be given to a child if they thought the child would be a teacher. They might give a hammer to a child they thought would be a carpenter. Thus gifts were given based on the belief of what the child would become or accomplish in his life.

The wise men gave to Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts represented what the wise men believed that Jesus was or would accomplish in his life.

Gold is associated in the scriptures with kings:

1. 2 Sam. 12:30 "And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance."

2. 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."

3. Est. 4:11 "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court,

who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."

4. Lev. 8:9 "And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses."

5. 1 King 10:16 "And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. 17 And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon. 18 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. 19 The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. 20 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom. 21 And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon."

6. 2 Chr. 9:17 "Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. 18 And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:"

7. Ps. 21:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! 2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah. 3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head."

We conclude that the gift of gold indicated that the wise men believed that Jesus was a king and indeed they were right. He sits and reigns in the kingdom of God today.

Frankincense is associated with the priesthood:

1. 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:"

2. Lev. 2:15 "And thou shalt put oil upon it, and lay frankincense thereon: it is a meat offering. 16 And the priest shall burn the memorial of it, part of the beaten corn thereof, and part of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

3. Lev. 6:14 "And this is the law of the meat offering: the sons of Aaron shall offer it before the LORD, before the altar. 15 And he shall take of it his handful, of the flour of the meat offering, and of the oil thereof, and all the frankincense which is upon the meat offering, and shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour, even the memorial of it, unto the LORD."

4. Rev. 8:1 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."

The wise men believed that Christ would be a high priest by giving him frankincense. They were correct because he is a High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisidec.

Myrrh is associated with burial. It was a spice that was wrapped around the dead bodies that were buried: John 19:39 "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, 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." Thus, the wise men believed that Jesus would accomplish great things in his death. Through the death of Jesus we have the redemption of sins. Jesus accomplished more in his death than all of mankind has ever accomplished either in life or death.

In conclusion the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh represented that Jesus would be a King, a High Priest, and would accomplish great things in his death. Jesus is King of Kings, our High Priest after the order of Melchisidec, and saved us from the condemnation of sin through his death.