

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

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INTRODUCTION - Christmas Begins in Eternity and Breaks into History. Christmas does not begin with shepherds or stars. It begins in the heart of God, in the breath of prophecy, in the corridors of eternity.

Around 40–60 specific Old Testament prophecies directly tied to the birth, lineage, and coming of Messiah (virgin birth, Bethlehem, tribe of Judah, line of David, timing, forerunner, etc.). Over **300 total Messianic prophecies** when you include His life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

- **How many prophecies, specifically about His birth?** Depending on how tightly you define “birth-related,” you typically see: **15–25 very clear, birth-specific prophecies**, for example:
 - Born of a woman and of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 22:18)
 - From the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - From the line of David (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Jeremiah 23:5)
 - Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - A virgin conceiving (Isaiah 7:14)

- Preceded by a forerunner (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1)
- Kings bringing gifts and nations coming to His light (Psalm 72:10–11; Isaiah 60:1–6, often associated with the Magi)

MATHMATIC PROBABILITY OF FULFILLMENT:

EIGHT specific prophecies fulfilled in one man - the odds of one man accidentally fulfilling 8 clear Messianic prophecies to be about:

- **1 in 10^{17}** - That is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Picture the state of Texas covered two feet deep in silver dollars, one marked coin, and you blindfold someone and they pick the right one on the first try.

FOURTY EIGHT prophecies fulfilled in one man - Extending the calculation to 48 prophecies:

- **1 in 10^{157}** - That is a 1 with 157 zeros after it. For perspective, that is far greater than the estimated number of atoms in the observable universe.

We are not talking about random chance. We are talking about a God who writes history in advance.

Isaiah saw it long before Mary held Him.

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV - “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

- A Child is born.
- A Son is given.
- This is the first Gift of Christmas.

Luke captures heaven’s response:

Luke 2:10 to 14 NKJV - “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...for there is born to you this day...a Savior...Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Heaven erupts because the Gift has arrived. But Matthew shows us something even more mysterious.

Matthew 2:1 to 2 NKJV - “Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

These “wise men” are no ordinary travelers. To understand the gifts they brought, we must understand who they were.

With all of this in mind, let us now unwrap the three remarkable gifts that truly sum up the meaning of Christmas and reveal its real power and purpose in our lives.

POINT 1 - THE FIRST GIFT OF CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT GOD GAVE US IN CHRIST

- Before the Magi ever opened their treasures, God opened heaven and gave us His Son. Christmas begins with God giving Himself.

John 3:16 NKJV - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

- Christmas is not humanity reaching for God. It is God reaching into a world that could not reach Him.

This sets the stage - Now we must follow the star, not to Bethlehem, but backward into Babylon. Because the story behind the Magi is older, deeper, richer, and more prophetic than most believers realize.

POINT 2 - THE SECOND GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS: THE GIFTS THE MAGI BROUGHT

To understand their gifts, we must understand **them**.

THE MEANING OF “MAGI” IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

- The New Testament uses the Greek word **magoi** (singular *magos*).
- English Bibles render it “wise men,” but many people mistakenly think it means “magicians,” “sorcerers,” or “fortune tellers.”
- But *magos* did not mean magician in the ancient world.

Magos originally meant “a member of the priestly, scholarly caste of the Medes and Persians.”

It described:

- Astronomer-priests
- Royal advisors
- Dream interpreters
- Scholars of sacred writings
- King-makers who installed or removed rulers

The Greek *magos* comes from the Old Persian *magu*, which means “a priest, a holy one, a possessor of secret knowledge.”

In other words: **The Magi were not magicians. They were a priestly lineage, a royal order, a scholarly fraternity entrusted with sacred wisdom.**

They were respected. Educated. Influential. And deeply spiritual. And here is where the story explodes with revelation:

Daniel became their teacher. DANIEL SHAPED THE MAGI FOR THIS MOMENT

Daniel 2:48 NKJV - “The king promoted Daniel... and made him chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.”

- The Aramaic word here for “wise men” corresponds to the same class later called *magoi*.
- Daniel was not simply one of them. He was over them. Their leader. Their instructor. Their prophetic mentor.

He taught them:

Daniel 9:25 NKJV - “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build

Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...”

- This is the most detailed prophetic timeline of Messiah in the entire Old Testament.
- Look at the command words: **Know therefore and understand...**
- This means Daniel expected his students to calculate it, preserve it, and interpret it.
- Who were his students? **The wise men he ruled. The Magi.**

This prophecy explains **when** Messiah would appear. This is exactly why the Magi in **Matthew 2 say: “Where is He who has been born King...?”** They were expecting Him based on Daniel’s timeline.

DANIEL TAUGHT THE MAGI ASTRONOMY AND HOW TO READ SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

Daniel was known not only as a prophet but as a master of: Dreams, Visions, Times, Seasons, Signs, Celestial interpretation. This is why Nebuchadnezzar placed him over the wise men.

Daniel 1:17 NKJV - “...Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”

Daniel 2:21 NKJV - “He changes the times and the seasons...”

Daniel introduced the Magi to a biblical worldview of celestial signs. It is entirely consistent with Daniel’s office for his disciples to watch the heavens for God’s prophetic signals. This gives scriptural support for Daniel preparing the Magi to expect a sign in the sky marking the Messiah’s birth.

Here are your **Biblically Berifiable Proofs:** (**Put up at same time**)

- **Daniel 2:48** - proves Daniel **led, trained, and taught the Magi.**
- **Daniel 9:25** - gives the **Messianic timeline** they would follow.
- **Daniel 2:44** - describes the coming **Kingdom**, the reason the Magi sought the King.
- **Daniel 7:13-14** - reveals the **divine Messiah** who would receive worship, explaining why they worshiped the Child.
- **Daniel 1:17 and 2:21** - show Daniel taught **sign interpretation**, supporting the Magi’s ability to recognize the Star.

These Scriptures create an airtight theological argument that: **The Magi in Matthew 2 were the prophetic descendants of Daniel's school, carrying revelations preserved for over 500 years until the birth of Christ.**

The Magi of Matthew 2 were the **spiritual descendants of Daniel's school. *God planted Daniel in Babylon so He could raise worshipers in Persia.***

THE MAGI DID NOT FOLLOW A STAR, THEY FOLLOWED A PROPHECY.

- The star was not their revelation. It was their confirmation.
- They had Daniel.
- They had the Scriptures.
- They had the timeline.

So, when the star appeared, it was not a surprise. It was an announcement.

They did not ask if a Messiah existed. They asked where He was. They believed before they saw. They worshiped before they arrived. ***Israel had the prophecies but missed Him. Persia had Daniel and pursued Him.***

THEIR GIFTS WERE THEOLOGY WRAPPED IN TREASURE

- **Gold - His Kingship** - A royal gift for a royal Child.
- **Frankincense - His Priesthood** - A priestly aroma for the One who would become our intercessor.
- **Myrrh - His Sacrifice** - A burial spice for the Lamb born to die.

They brought what He was. A King. A Priest. A Sacrifice. Bethlehem becomes a theological classroom. The gifts preach the Gospel before Jesus preaches His first sermon.

POINT 3 - THE THIRD GIFT OF CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT CHRIST GIVES BACK TO US

The Magi opened their treasures. Christ opened His heart. And He gives us gifts far greater than gold, incense, or myrrh.

CHRIST GIVES RESCUE - SALVATION

Luke 2:11 NKJV “There is born to you... a Savior.”

- Not an advisor.
- Not an example.
- A Savior.

This is the gift that breaks chains and rewrites eternity.

CHRIST GIVES RELATIONSHIP - ACCESS TO THE FATHER

Frankincense points to priesthood. Jesus restores fellowship.

Ephesians 2:18 NKJV - “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Access once guarded by angels is now opened by Christ.

CHRIST GIVES RESTORATION - OUR KINGDOM IDENTITY

Gold pointed to His royalty. But through Him, we become royalty.

Revelation 1:6 NKJV - “He has made us kings and priests.”

- He restores what sin robbed.
- He redeems what shame buried.
- He returns what the enemy stole.

Christ received the gifts of a King so He could give the gifts of a Kingdom.

CONCLUSION - THE FULL CIRCLE OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas story does not begin in Bethlehem. It begins in Babylon. In Daniel's courage. In a prophetic seed planted in captivity. In a group of Magi who were waiting for a Messiah they had never met.

Christmas is a story of a God who moves through nations, empires, centuries, and captives to bring the world a gift it could never deserve.

And today, that same Gift stands before us. The King. The Priest. The Lamb.

Bring Him your gold, your worship, your wounds. Bring Him your past, your fears, your future. Because **The Gift of Christmas is not something you unwrap - It is Someone who unwraps the chains around your life.**