

## The Magi - Matthew 2:1-12 – Part 3

Please Open Your Bibles To Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi:

Where are they from?

What do they do?

What do they bring?

As we come to our third and final message on the Magi, we need to remind ourselves of what we have learned so far. The Magi were from the Parthian Empire and were remnants of a tribe of the Medes that became priests to kings. They were trained under Daniel and most likely Dream Interpreters as we will see today. They knew the prophecies of Daniel and when they saw the supernatural star in the east they knew to come to Jerusalem. Their presence upsets Herod and all of Jerusalem as they would have showed up as a large contingent and would have been a threat to the peace. Compound that with the fact they said they were looking for the King of the Jews a title reserved for Herod, things got dicey. Herod asked the Jewish leaders where the Christ was to be born and all they did was quote some scriptures and went back to their falafels and ignored the whole thing. Herod uses deception to find out when Jesus was born, and the Magi go on their way only to be

met by the “Star” that led them to the house where Jesus was at. We left off with...

Matthew 2:10-11

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.

Just to remind us, we looked at the shepherds and these Magi and the great lengths and faith they possessed to go see Jesus. It wasn’t the rich and powerful. It wasn’t the kings and religious people. It was common people like you and me.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification

and redemption—that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

Remember the Christmas story is about God’s glory being revealed to man through the person and work of Jesus Christ. When we put our faith and trust in Him His glory rests in us and we become His witnesses to this world. This is what they were rejoicing over. This is why they worshiped Him. We can rejoice too as all of our sins have been forgiven and the way to God has been opened to us. But the story does not end there because just as we should, they responded to what God has done for them with acts of worship...

Matthew 2:11b-12

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Notice they did not come empty handed. This means that they had faith that what was promised would be fulfilled. This brings us to why these three gifts? This is where the idea of “Three Kings” came from. But these gifts were not brought out of convenience but out of purpose. They have an important meaning, and they deal with the person of the Messiah. Let’s

look at them and see how they apply to His coming and more importantly His future.

We are going to go backward and show you that these gifts represent the Messiah's role as Prophet, Priest and King. It in this order that the Mission of Jesus will be fulfilled.

First thing Jesus will do is fulfill the role of Prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:15

The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear

Why would Myrrh represent this? Because this speaks of His death. All the prophets in the Bible suffered this way.

Matthew 23:34-35

Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Jesus said Himself...

Matthew 20:18-19

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”

John 19:39-40

And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

They understood the need for Him to fulfill the prophesies that spoke of His death. But what about the frankincense? This speaks of His priesthood.

Leviticus 2:2

He shall bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord.

Jesus's death would make way for the priesthood. It was prophesied...

Psalm 110:4

The Lord has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 7:24-27

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

So, we see the Myrrh Speaks of His past death for our sins and the Frankincense speaks of His present priestly work, what does the gold represent? His future work as King!

David was crowned king...

## 2 Samuel 12:30

Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

And one day He will come again wearing the Crowns of victory...

## Revelation 19:11-13

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

So, you see they understood the three-fold work of the Messiah and what they brought shows us that. He came as a servant to pay the price for our sins through death, that is the Myrrh. His resurrection and ascension brought about His current priestly work, that is the frankincense and He is coming again to rule and reign over His kingdom here on earth that is the gold. He is our Prophet, Priest and King!

Did you know that all of creation will worship him as king? The Magi would have been familiar with this...

Daniel 7:26-27

“But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

And the Bible is very clear...

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

But did you know that they are not the only ones to bring Jesus gifts? One day you and I will be laying gifts at His feet too!

When we will lay gifts at His feet

Revelation 4

Notice that it is in response to Who God is and not to receive something back. The kings brought gifts in response to the prophet's message not to receive anything in return. Our rewards are received by responding to that which is already done. Our motive needs to be the same as these Magi. Did you know there are specific crowns mentioned in the Bible?

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

## 2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

## 1 Peter 5:2-4

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

But did you know you do not have to wait until you get to heaven to give gifts to Him?

## Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to

God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:4-6

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them

As we enter into a new year let us make a decision to give of ourselves to God in response to His goodness that He has shown to us.

Just as we see in the last verse that the Magi were warned in a dream to go another way that they obeyed the word of God and so should we.

Galatians 5:13-14

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Let's make that our goal in 2026.