

A Gift Fit for a King

I remember “sizing up” the presents under our family Christmas tree when I was young. My rule of thumb was simple: the bigger the box, the better the gift. It wasn’t until I grew older that I realized how wrong that theory was. The gifts that have touched my heart the most over the years weren’t the biggest or the most expensive – rather, they were the ones handcrafted with love by those who cared enough to take the time to create something unique to my style.

In Matthew 2:1-12 we read of the “wise men from the East” (Magi), guided by the Star of Bethlehem, bringing gifts to the newborn King (i.e., the Promised Messiah, Ref. Isaiah 7:14). When they reached the baby Jesus with his mother Mary, they responded by: Bowing down (in humble reverence), worshipping Him (in praise and adoration), and presenting Him with their gifts (in devotion and honor).

Symbolism of the Wise Men’s gifts:

Gold – A valuable gift fit for a king. Also, symbolizing Jesus’ royalty as the King of Kings.

Frankincense – An incense used in temple worship and by Priests. Symbolizing Jesus’ divinity and role as the Ultimate High Priest.

Myrrh – A spice or anointing oil used to prepare bodies for burial, which prophetically foreshadowed Jesus’ suffering, death, and sacrificial work as the Savior.

The Magi wisely saw Jesus for who He truly was and offered Him their best gifts. This Christmas season, one of the best gifts we can offer our Lord and Savior King Jesus is an undivided heart. The Psalmist David recognized the importance of surrendering our whole heart over to God through his prayer in Psalm 86:11, which reads, “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness, give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.”

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate your birth this year, help us to follow the example of the Wise Men from the east. May we offer you a gift “fit for a King” – an undivided heart, bowed in humble reverence. Teach us also to worship you with praise and adoration, devotion and honor, giving you not only our words but our service, love, and obedience. Amen and Amen.