

The Promised Child (3)

Before you start, read Matthew 2 v 1-11

The gifts from the wise men were prophetic because

- Gold symbolised **Kingship**
- Frankincense was used by **Priests** in the temple offerings
- Myrrh symbolised **Suffering**



Gold for a King

Read 2 Samuel 7 v 12-13. What did God say would happen to one of King David's descendants?

Read John 14 v 15. What does it mean for Jesus to be your King?

Incense for a Priest

Read Psalm 110 v 4. This psalm is well recognised as referring to the Christ. What do we learn about Him?

Read Hebrews 7 v 27. What does this verse tell us about Jesus as our Priest?

Myrrh for Suffering

Read Isaiah 53 v 3. What does this verse, written 700 years before Jesus was born, tell us about the Christ?

Read Matthew 27 v 27-44. How was the prophecy in Isaiah 53 v 3 fulfilled?

Read Matthew 2 v 11

What did the wise men do when they found the baby? Why do you think they did this?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the gift of gold that the wise men gave you reminds us that you are the King whose kingdom is eternal. The incense and myrrh remind us that you are our High Priest; the one who made a sacrifice of your own life in order to fully pay for our sins so that we can enter your kingdom. Just as the wise men worshipped you as a baby, please help me to worship you today as my King and Saviour. Help me to love you and live in obedience to you. Amen.

If you have a Bible, why not look up the verses yourself instead of just reading them here. I've printed them here for people who don't have a Bible!

Matthew 2 v 1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

2 Samuel 7 v 12-13

¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

John 14 v 15

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands."

Psalms 110 v 4

⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." (Melchizedek was a priest who blessed Abram after a battle, Genesis 14).

Hebrews 7 v 27

²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Isaiah 53 v 3

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Matthew 27 v 27-50

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him." ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God." ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.