

# Treasure Hunt

- How did the Wise Men know that the star marked the birth of the King of the Jews?
- Each of their gifts tells us something about who the Lord Jesus is and what he has come to do:
  - What is the significance of their gift of gold?
  - What is the significance of their gift of frankincense?
  - What is the significance of their gift of myrrh?

# Daniel and the Wise Men

Their relation to Daniel:

Dan 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, *I say, thy father,* made master of the magicians, **astrologers**, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers;

What they knew from Daniel: **the time**

Dan 9:25 from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks [sevens, i.e., of years]

What they knew from Daniel's books: **the sign**

Num 24:17 **there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel**, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

OT:

# Gold

(Mostly) Tabernacle and Temple

Exo 37:1-7 And Bezaleel made the ark *of* shittim wood: ... 2 And he overlaid it with pure **gold** within and without, and made a crown of **gold** to it round about. 3 And he cast for it four rings of **gold**, *to be set* by the four corners of it; .... 4 And he made staves *of* shittim wood, and overlaid them with **gold**. ... 6 And he made the mercy seat *of* pure **gold**: ... 7 And he made two cherubims *of* **gold**, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;

The tribute of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon

1Ki 10:2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much **gold**, and precious stones:

NT:

Metaphorical of the church

1 Co 3:12-13 Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold**, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest:

The heavenly Jerusalem:

Rev 21:18, 21 the city was pure **gold**, like unto clear glass. ... the street of the city was pure **gold**, as it were transparent glass.

# Frankincense in the OT

Incense for the altar of incense:

Exo 30:34-35 Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; *these* sweet spices with pure **frankincense**: of each shall there be a like *weight*: 35 And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure *and* holy:

Placed on the shewbread

Lev 24:5-7 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. 7 And thou shalt put pure **frankincense** upon *each* row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, *even* an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

(Most references) Meal Offering מנחה

Lev 2:1 And when any will offer a meat [grain] offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be *of* fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put **frankincense** thereon:

NOT used with the sin offering:

Lev 5:11 he that sinned shall bring for his offering the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put *any frankincense* thereon: for it *is* a sin offering.

# Frankincense in the NT

Only named here and in Rev 18:13 (merchandise of Babylon)

Indirect allusion:

Eph 5:2 walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an **offering** and a sacrifice to God for a **sweet-smelling savour**.

Compare the Messianic Psalm (Heb 10:5-12)

Psa 40:6-8 Sacrifice and **offering מנחה** thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

# Myrrh in the OT

Predominantly (11/12) romantic:

Mostly (8/12 uses) in Canticles.

Sol 3:6 Who *is* this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with **myrrh** and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

Esther and King Ahasuerus:

Est 2:12 so were the days of their purifications accomplished, *to wit*, six months with oil of **myrrh**, and six months with sweet odours, and with *other* things for the purifying of the women;

The royal bridegroom:

Psa 45:8 All thy garments *smell* of **myrrh**, and aloes, *and* cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

The adulteress:

Pro 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with **myrrh**, aloes, and cinnamon.

# Myrrh Myrrh and Marriage in the NT

Mar 15:23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with **myrrh**: but he received *it* not.

Joh 19:39-40 And there came also Nicodemus, ... 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.

## Marriage

Rev 19:7-8 the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife** hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in **fine linen, clean and white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Rev 7:14 they ... have washed their robes, and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb**

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and **gave himself for it**;

# The Gifts of the Wise Men

Gold: The Lord Jesus is the tabernacle of God among his people. → His Deity

Frankincense: The Lord Jesus offers perfect worship to his Father. → His Humanity

Myrrh: The Lord Jesus woos us as his bride by his sufferings for us. → Our Redeemer