

## GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, & MYRRH

### A-PROPHETIC-MESSAGE-FROM-THE-WISE-MEN

By Paul M Hanssen



*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)*

The “wise men,” as they are referred to, found Jesus in a house, not a manger. He was probably around two years old by this time, according to the timeline the wisemen had given and the order King Herod gave to kill all male children (man-child) two years and younger. (Matthew 2:16)

The wise men may have been two, three, four, or five in number - it doesn't say how many. They were intelligent and educated in science. More than that, they were prophetic and inspired by God. The Greek word used to describe them is *magos*, which comes from the Hebrew word *rabb-mawg*, meaning a Babylonian official, a ruler, master, and a member of a priestly order. Whoever and whatever they were, God brought them from afar to deliver a powerful prophetic message, not presented in words but in the form of three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men sought Him, pursued Him, and paid a great price to find Him. They traveled, possibly for many months, on foot to reach him, coming from Babylon (modern Iran) or somewhere beyond in the east. They came looking for the King, the sovereign ruler.

*Saying, Where is **he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are **come to worship him.** (Matthew 2:2)*

Their admiration and worship of the King are reflected in the cost they paid to get there and in their approach to Him. Their presentation was accompanied by:

- Falling Down = a prolonged contraction, to fly (as in making haste)
- Worship = prostrate oneself, to kiss, reverence, and adoration
- Opening of Treasures = freely opening their wealth and substance
- Presenting prophetic gifts = a sacrifice and an offering with prophetic value

GOLD - *King* - MOST HOLY PLACE

FRANKINCENSE - *Prophet* - HOLY PLACE

PRIEST - *Myrrh* - COURTYARD

Moses Tabernacle was the picture, shadow, and type of the perfect Tabernacle of God, Jesus. He is God's perfect tabernacle.

*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3 / Hebrews 9:11.*

The Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon were laid out in three divisions, three dimensions of service and experience, and three realms of His presence revealed:

COURTYARD

HOLY PLACE

HOLIEST OF ALL

Among other things, these three dimensions represent the king, prophet, and priest anointings that Jesus carried. And this is what the three gifts of the wise men prophesied about—the Kingly, prophetic, and priestly anointings and ministry of Jesus, the three dimensions of His power, authority, word, anointing, and purpose.

- GOLD - Divine King - Authority - Precious Metal

Gold is a solid substance of great cost, whereas myrrh and frankincense are fragrances.

Exodus 25:10-22

The Ark of the Covenant was placed within the Holiest of All. The Ark was made of shittim wood overlaid with pure gold. The Mercy seat upon the Ark was *pure gold*. This represents the throne of God and His divine Kingship and authority.

The difference between gold and pure gold is that gold is generally mixed with other metals to give it strength, whereas pure gold is soft, pliable, and malleable. It can be bent and formed without cracking or breaking. The Kingship and authority of God are covered in mercy that easily bends; the superior bending in favor of the inferior (this is the meaning of mercy). His throne is established in mercy. God's nature and divine laws do not change because of man. However, God's Kingship and sovereignty are like pure gold - He bends, the superior to the inferior, without cracking, compromising, or breaking, He bends in compassion and with love. **This is a quality many Christians lack.**

*And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness. (Isaiah 16:5)*

Paul refers to God's throne as the Throne of Grace, where we obtain mercy (Hebrews 4:16). If it were not for the pliable, malleable gold of His Kingship, we would all be doomed. But the gold of His Kingly mercy enables us to come boldly (with open hands - honesty) before His throne.

God's Kingly authority is like pure gold. Did you know that God desires to share this authority with you and me; however, the gold of His divine nature becoming formed within us needs to go through the fire of purification, why? -so we can also bend in mercy. Power without mercy is destructive. In Luke 9:54-55, the disciples wanted to call fire down from heaven on the Samaritans

because they did not receive Him. Jesus said, "Ye know not what manner spirit ye are of." This is what impure gold looks like: hard, unforgiving, and full of judgment without mercy.

Solomon's throne was made of beaten gold. The steps to the throne, the footstool, and the lions on either side were all made of gold.

*Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays: And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom. (2 Chronicles 9:16-19)*

- FRANKINCENSE - Prophetic Word of Faith - Priceless Perfume

Frankincense relates to the prophetic ministry of Jesus - the prophet, the spoken word of faith. The Holy Place was where the candlestick and the table of shewbread were positioned. Both pieces of furniture portray the Word - the light of the Word (the theory) and the strength and experience of the Word. The table of shewbread illustrates the prophet's ministry.

*He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the Lord continually. And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. 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. (Leviticus 24:4-7)*

The two piles of bread represent the two sides of the prophet's ministry: to break down and root up, as well as to build and plant (Jeremiah 1:5, 10). A true prophet will not only build and plant or break down and root up; a prophet's ministry is balanced—he will do both the breaking down and the rooting up that precede the building and planting.

The two piles of bread had frankincense burning on each. The Word of the prophet is always fragranced with frankincense - the fragrance of humility, brokenness, and faith. But moreover, a true prophet embodies the heartbeat of God more than any of the other fivefold ministries.

**The Hebrew word for frankincense is *leb-o-naw*, from the root word *labe*, meaning the heart, the most interior organ, the feelings, and the will.**

The tears of a prophet reflect the sentiment of God's heart, hence the fragrance of frankincense - an expensive aroma from the gum of a tree that has been pierced.

Frankincense is literally called "**the tears of the Boswellia Tree.**" It is extracted from the tree by piercing it, causing droplets to form, like tears of frankincense. The fragrance of the frankincense permeated the bread, giving it a unique flavor. The prophetic Word of God, whether judgment or blessing, is fragranced with the nature and character of Jesus, our prophet. It carries God's heartbeat for His people.

The priests who ministered in the Holy Place came from there perfumed with the fragrance of frankincense and other incense upon the golden altar. There was never any question about who had been in that space. Every fiber of clothing, every hair on the head, and every inch of his skin

carried the aroma of where he had been ministering before the LORD. This is prophetic of Jesus' prophetic ministry. His Words, life, actions, and deeds were full of the fragrance of frankincense, so much so that they questioned, "*What a word is this! for He speaketh with power and authority.*" (Luke 4:36)

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet (*Jeremiah 13:17, 9:1*). Many of the prophets wept, including Moses, Elijah, David, and Jesus. The Word of prophecy and tears go hand in hand.

- MYRRH - The Priest - Exotic and expensive Anointing Oil

*And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. 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.* (John 19:39-40)

Jesus' priestly ministry was fulfilled on the cross as the Lamb of God, the offering, and the sacrifice at the brazen altar. Upon taking His body down from the cross, His body was anointed with myrrh and aloes (a fragrant wood used to enhance the myrrh).

Myrrh, like frankincense, was a gum extracted by piercing a C. Myrrha tree. When pierced, the tree released a fragrant gum. It was then made into an oil used for cuts and wounds (as an antibiotic and antiseptic) and as an anointing oil.

Jesus, our High Priest, was pierced, and from Him oozed the fragrance of myrrh, humility, forgiveness, and love. His mutilated body was anointed with the aroma of myrrh, with no stench, no foul odor—only sweetness. In this, He became our High Priest and mediator-redeemer.

A lot can be said about myrrh; however, the question we need to ask ourselves is, "What fragrance is released from me when I am pierced?" God has called us to be priests, offering the fragrant sacrifices of praise. Hence, we are anointed with the priestly character and nature of Jesus, permeated with the fragrance of humility—myrrh.

*Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.* (Hebrews 13:12-15)

It is not possible to become priests unto our God if, when we are pierced, we do not spill the fragrance of humility. A priest mediates, touching God on one side and man on the other. Without being anointed with the fragrant oil of myrrh, your service is in danger of becoming tainted and defiled by fallen human nature; love becomes human affection, biased and unbalanced; ministry becomes focused on self-importance and promotion; the building of God's Kingdom becomes the building of the kingdom of the flesh. But when you have been pierced at the altar and have adopted the humility of the sacrificial priest, your life and service release the fragrance that is beyond anything you can generate, the fragrance of Christ's priestly humility.

This is the prophetic message of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is the prophetic Word sent to the man-child, Jesus, a message that traveled from afar with men in pursuit of the anointed One. This is what I desire to be touched by this Christmas season in a way I never have before!

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!