

# THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

## ADVENT 2025



★ JOY & PEACE ★ RELATIONSHIP ★ JESUS



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- The hope of the Christmas message = **God has come to us in Jesus.**

## Matthew 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:* <sup>23</sup> *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

# Are you EXCITED for Christmas?

- Advent season (Nov 30 to Dec 24) = *A time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus birth at Christmas. **Also looks forward in anticipation of Jesus return.***

## John 14:2-3

*<sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***

# Australian's EXCITED for Christmas

- 2019 National Survey – What are you MOST looking forward to about Christmas?
  - Spending time with family & friends
  - The food & celebration

# Christmas is a time for GIVING!

- It's a tradition we all embrace.



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- **We need to look to the very FIRST Christmas Day.**
  - God's indescribable gift to us = Jesus.

# God has given us the GREATEST gift!

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,  
*that he gave his only Son,*  
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES  
IN HIM SHOULD  
NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

...

*John 3:16*





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- The Magi / Wise Men (*Who brought gifts to Jesus*)?
  - The first Christmas gift was given years before the magi turn up on the scene.
- **We need to look to the very FIRST Christmas Day.**
  - God has given great and wonderful gifts to us.
  - **God's indescribable gift to us = Jesus.**



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*(It seems we like giving gifts more than receiving gifts)*



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- **Most hoped for Christmas presents**
  1. Time with loved ones
  2. Cash
  3. No present at all

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- Surely there were more appropriate gifts?
- **The wise men gave SIGNIFICANT gifts that help us to understand who Jesus is and why we should get excited about Christmas!**

# Matthew 2:1-12

- One AMAZING event.
- Three SIGNIFICANT gifts.
- Three RESPONSES to Jesus.

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(*see also verses 15, 17-18, 23*)
- God protects these pagan Magi and warns them to go home by another route (v.12)

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## Matthew 2:6

*“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.”*

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- **Gold = a gift for a king.**  
*(Signifies that Jesus IS the King of everything.)*
- **We see this confirmed in the life and ministry of Jesus.**
  - *He heals the sick.*
  - *He casts out demons.*
  - *He commands nature with a word.*
  - *He raises the dead.*
  - *He claims that He will be crucified, buried and then three days later will rise again.*  
*(He is & does – these events verified by eyewitnesses).*



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*(Signifies that **Jesus makes us right with God.**)*

Matthew 1:21

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save his people from their sins.**"*

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- **Myrrh was an embalming spice used in preparation for burial.**
- (Signifies HOW Jesus would restore us to right relationship with God – by laying down His life so we might live)

## Mark 10:45

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

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- **These gifts were very expensive and may have helped to fund Joseph & Mary's exile in Egypt until Herod died.**

## Matthew 2:13-15

*<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." <sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."*

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- These gifts were very expensive and may have helped to fund Joseph & Mary's exile in Egypt until Herod died.
- Yet their significance is not in their value but in what they reveal to us about Jesus.
- **Jesus is the King (of everything) who makes us right with God by dying (in our place) for our sins.**

# Three RESPONSES to Jesus...

Mark 2:1-12, 16 (NIV)



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Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

*<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> **When King Herod heard this he was disturbed,** and all Jerusalem with him. . <sup>4</sup> 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.***

# Three RESPONSES to Jesus...

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> ***"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:*** <sup>6</sup> *"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.*

<sup>7</sup> *Then **Herod called the Magi secretly** and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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."*

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Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

*<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> **When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.** <sup>11</sup> 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.** <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, **they returned to their country by another route.***

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Mark 2:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> ***When Herod realized** that he had been outwitted by the Magi, **he was furious,** and he **gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity** who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.*

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**What is YOUR response to Jesus?**