



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

GOD'S *Greatest Gift*

*"...The free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23b

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Matthew 2:1–3, 9–11 (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi [wise men] from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. . . .

The **Magi** were likely spiritual, royal persons from the "East" (*Not from the West*).

"Magi is derived from the Persian word 'maguś'"

The Parthian Empire and Persia was east of ancient Israel. Persians were noted for their development of science



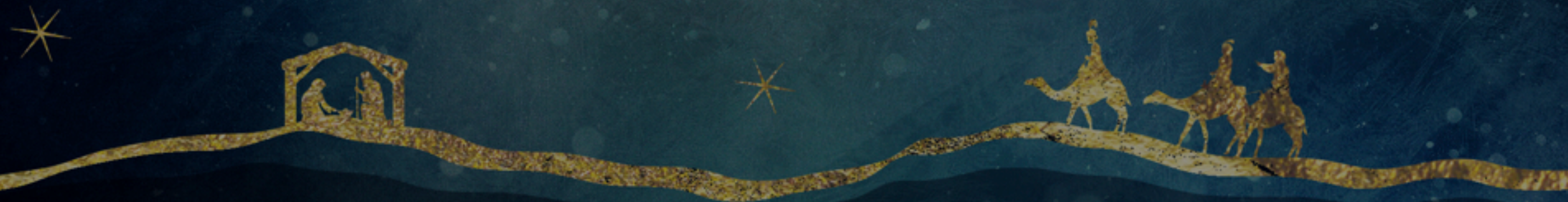
Matthew 2:1–3, 9–11 (NIV)

9 After they had heard the king, they [the wise men] went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:1–3, 9–11 (NIV)

*11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and **presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.***

Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh



According to tradition, **gold** was given to the infant King as **a symbol of His royalty.**

Frankincense, a fragrant incense used in sacrificial offerings, was meant to **represent Jesus' deity.**

Myrrh, an embalming oil, was **a token of His future suffering and death.**

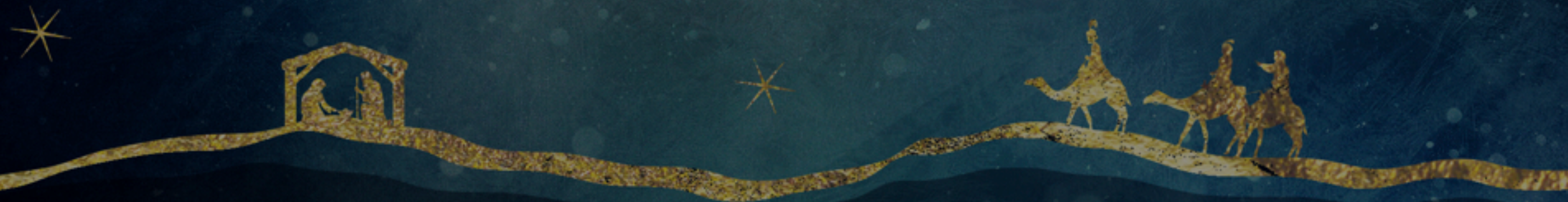
What is the Perfect Gift?

It has been said a “perfect gift” meets three criteria

1. The gift should reflect the one who gives it.
2. The gift should reflect knowledge of the one who receives it.
3. The gift should be of a nature and quality that will hold its value as time goes on.

**God gave humanity the perfect gift
when He sent His Son Jesus.**

The gift of Jesus meets all of the criteria for
being a perfect gift.



Jesus, the "Perfect Gift" Meets All Three Criteria

1. Jesus reflects the One Who gave Him—God the Father.
2. God's gift of His Son reflects knowledge of our needs.
3. The Gift of Jesus is of a nature and quality that will hold its value as times goes on. Jesus' value is eternal!

1 | Jesus reflects the One Who gave Him —God the Father

Hebrews 1:3 (NLT)

The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly....

Colossians 1:15 (NIV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

2 | Jesus is the Perfect Gift because God gave Him knowledge of our needs

Hebrews 2:14 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*

Hebrews 4:15, *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

3 | The Gift of Jesus holds its value for all eternity Jesus is the Gift that keeps on giving

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:15, *But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the **one man's offense** [Adam] many died, much more the grace of God and the **gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ**, abounded to many.*

A CHILD IS BORN



M E R R Y
CHRISTMAS

