MANA GOLD ANA MANA

FRANKENSTEIN AND MERMAIDS

Do we have your attention? I'm sure we have. Imagine the look on the Sunday school teacher's face when she asked her class of youngsters what it was the wise men brought to the baby Jesus, and one of the children replied in earnestness: "GOLD, FRANKENSTEIN and MERMAIDS. The child was confused as to the gifts presented to our Lord, which is understandable. Look at our religious mixed up world, especially at Christmas-time. Many will participate in Christmas parties getting blind drunk, while singing Christmas songs. A fulfillment of Psalm 69:12.

"...I was the song of the drunkards."

God's holy name will be used by cursing men and women thus displaying anything but the compassion and love of Christ. Note the three gifts mentioned in the Scripture of Matthew 2:11 and the meaning we attach to them:

GOLD – FRANKINCENSE - MYRRH

I. GOLD:

- Gold has always played an important part in the Old Testament economy, and so today.
- Gold was used for coinage –Ezra 2:6-9, a symbol of great value –Lam. 4:2, and used for the overlaying of the Tabernacle furniture –Exodus 25:11.
- Gold is a symbol of the power of man –Daniel 3:1.
 - Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of Gold –Daniel 3:1.
 - People were told to bow down and worship the golden image –Daniel 3:5.
- Gold, and all that we have belongs to God, and can be taken away at any time as God so desires. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts." –Haggai 2:8

II. FRANKINCENSE:

- Frankincense was the fragrant gum of a tree –S. of Solomon 3:6. It spoke of the Lord, and was used in the Tabernacle –Exodus 30:34-38.
- Frankincense was to be used only for the Lord as a private possession –See Exodus 30:37. We who are Christians are HIS private possession –See 1 Peter 2:9.

III. MYRRH:

- Myrrh was used for embalming the dead –John 19:39-40.
- Myrrh was a fragrant substance called in the Hebrew "mor" and in the Greek "Smyrna."
- Myrrh was associated with death. Christ <u>died</u> for our sins and was <u>buried</u> and <u>rose</u> again the third day
 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

THE CHALLENGE OF THE THREE GIFTS:

GOLD - "Thou art all O Lord."

FRANKINCENSE – "Take my all, I belong to Thee O Lord."

MYRRH – "Thou hast conquered all O Lord."

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Christmas Thoughts