

The Gift of Gold: The King Who Restores His Kingdom

Bible text: Matthew 2:1-11, Luke 1:32-33, Revelation 11:15

Sermon series: Advent 2025 – The Gift that Brings Restoration

Introduction

Advent is not nostalgia. It's the announcement that the rightful King has stepped into the world to set every wrong right. Advent is also the story of God's greatest gift — a gift that restores all things.

Each week of this new Advent series we open one of the gifts brought to the Messiah or gifts that he brings, and discover who he truly is: the King, the Priest, the Servant, the Light, and the Savior who brings real peace. Together, these reflections of Messiah unveil God's plan to restore his Kingdom, his people, and his creation.

Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose[b] and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Magi Bring Gold

The Magi bring gold, because they recognize what Herod fears and what Israel has forgotten: the King has been born. But who were these Magi (Greek: magoi)? They were a class of wise men from the East, most likely Persia or Babylonia, who were known for studying the stars and

astronomical signs, ancient writings, dreams and mysteries, and sometimes they would advise kings. Daniel was appointed “chief of the wise men.” It could very well be that he had influence on later generations of Eastern scholars... including the ones in our story who were looking for Jesus. They seemed to have had an understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Prophecies about the Jewish Messiah would have been known in the East. So seeing an extraordinary astronomical phenomenon, they understood it as the sign of the birth of the long-awaited Jewish King. By bringing a gift of gold to Jesus they declare that Jesus is the true Messianic King of Israel.

Why Is their visit significant?

- Gentiles are the first ones to honor Israel’s King >>> the gospel going to the nations.
- Their gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh) reveal Jesus as King, Priest, and Suffering Servant.
- They fulfill Isaiah’s vision of nations bringing treasures to Messiah (Isa. 60).

The advent season just started, reminding us that the King has come, but that his reign is not yet complete. We still await the day when he returns to restore all things. The gift of gold points both backward to the covenant promises to David and points forward to their final fulfillment.

If the magi paid homage to the King by bringing gold – how are you and I paying homage to him?

The King has Come

Not only in Matthew’s gospel do we see these royal lines. Check out what the angel Gabriel says to Mary in Luke:

Luke 1:32-33 (ESV)

32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Jesus will be a new David who “*will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*” This is an echo from Isaiah 9:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

*6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

The King Has Been Inaugurated

So if Jesus is king “*from this time forth and forevermore*”, is the world today the way it is supposed to be? Where is the peace? Where is justice and righteousness?

If Jesus is King, why does the world still look like Herod's world more than his? I do not see much evidence of his reign in Israel, in the Netherlands, in the EU, in the US, in the Muslim world, and in the UN: wars, corruption, poverty, sickness, death, etc.

Yet Isaiah says *"of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end"* ... Did God make a mistake? Was Jesus delusional? Were the prophets wrong? Could it be that advent reminds us that the King has come, but the Kingdom has not yet come in fullness.

Isaiah 2 gives us a glimpse into the future. If Isaiah is right, something still has to happen before this becomes reality:

Isaiah 2:2-4 (ESV)

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

When Will His Kingdom be Consummated?

The birth of the King marks the inauguration of God's Kingdom – the restoration has begun in the remnant of Israel and the nations are grafted in (Romans 11), but the consummation awaits Messiah's return to reign from Zion. The world is not yet the way it's supposed to be! This must have consumed the disciples' thinking, who were thinking that God might be restoring his Kingdom of Israel in their day:

Acts 1:6-8 (ESV)

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

If the Kingdom were fully here, the disciples wouldn't have asked, "Will you now restore the Kingdom to Israel?" Jesus doesn't rebuke their expectation, only their timing. And then Jesus is taken up into heaven on a cloud from the Mount of Olives and the angels tell the disciples he will return in the same way.

Peter preaches about the same hope which Jesus taught him about:

Acts 3:21 (ESV)

"Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets."

In Acts 15 James quotes Amos 9:11-12 that the “*tent of David that has fallen*” would welcome gentiles:

Acts 15:16-17 (ESV)

*16 After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,
17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name*

The time for God to “*restore the kingdom to Israel*” and for him “*to restore everything*” is sooner than we think it is!

One day soon the trumpet, the shofar will sound. The Man who came as a baby at his first coming will return as a warrior-King:

Revelation 11:15 (ESV)

*Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,
“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he
shall reign forever and ever.”*

This is not poetry. This is prophecy. It will happen! The trumpet will sound and Jesus will reign from Jerusalem! The baby in the manger becomes the King on the throne. The LORD will be King over all the earth (Zech. 14:9).

Conclusion

By bringing a gift of gold to Jesus the Magi declared that Jesus is the promised Son of David, the true King through whom God’s Kingdom has begun to break into this world. The first Advent tells us God keeps his promises. The second Advent tells us God will finish what he started.

The Magi understood something we often forget: Jesus is not just the Savior who forgives. He is the King who reigns. They traveled far, bowed low, and opened their treasures because they recognized his worth.

Herod resisted him. Jerusalem ignored him. But the nations came running to him.
How will you respond?

Advent calls us to do what the Magi did: recognize the King who has come, surrender to his rule now, and long for the day he returns to restore all things.

The gold in their hands becomes the allegiance in our hearts.

Surrender afresh to King Jesus now! Live as a citizen of the Kingdom that is coming! Let restoration begin in you today!