

# THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI...

“...and when they saw the star, they rejoiced with great Joy! Upon entering the house they saw JESUS with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him, presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned by GOD not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.” (Matthew 2:10-11)



**GOLD**- Gold was the usual gift offering presented to kings to pay respect. The Magi were honoring JESUS with the best gift they possessed - recognizing that JESUS was King.

Gold was used plentifully in the Tabernacle and the Temple, so gold is associated with worship. In heaven, you will "walk on streets of gold." (Revelation 21:21)

**FRANKINCENSE** - Frankincense represents the divinity of JESUS. It is a very costly and fragrant gum from a tree. It was used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to GOD, and it is also used as medicine and a perfume. Although frankincense is not used in services today, your worship is pleasing to GOD.

While frankincense represents sweetness, myrrh represents bitterness.

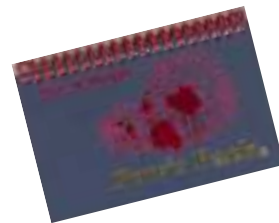
**MYRRH** - Myrrh is an aromatic gum, obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense, used chiefly in embalming the dead as in John 19:39. It was presented to JESUS to acknowledge His suffering, His death and burial. These gifts provided financial resources for the trip Mary and Joseph took to Egypt; they also were symbolic of the future roles of JESUS. As you honor Christ JESUS, the "Anointed One" this season, may you worship Him as KING of kings and LORD of lords! **Hallelujah!!**



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(I Timothy 1:5)

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**Freedom Street XPress Staff**  
Publisher ...Derin Carmack (in absentia)  
Editor ...Barbara Carmack  
Design & Technical Consultant ...Holy Spirit Prayer Covering & Article Contribution...  
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# Freedom Street XPress

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## PEACE on earth...

by Barbara Carmack

Do you realize what the U.N. is doing when it convenes? It's seeking ways to bring about peace on the earth - "Peace, Peace" they all seem to say and, have you noticed, the more they speak about peace, the less peace there is. This world is in turmoil...somewhat like in the days before JESUS arrived. Much like what's happening today, the Jewish people were oppressed by the Roman Empire and did not have individual freedoms.

At that time in Israel's history, the country was in shambles and hopelessness hung in the air they breathed. Isaiah not only prophesied JESUS' birth in Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7, but Isaiah also spoke of the condition of the people when JESUS would appear to bring salvation, not only to the Jews but, to everyone who would receive Him: **"Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His Glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."** (Isaiah 60:1)

Six months before JESUS was born in a stable, His cousin, John, was born and at his dedication, his father, Zachariah, prophesied over him almost the exact words from Isaiah 60, **"...for you will go before the LORD to prepare His ways...to give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins** (a New Covenant concept). **Because of the tender mercy of our GOD, with which the Sunrise (JESUS) from on high shall visit us, to shine upon those who SIT IN DARKNESS and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of PEACE!"**

GOD had all of this perfectly planned, and to bring together all the prophecies from the Old Testament, culminating in the arrival of the Messiah, was a tall order...and they say there is no GOD! The last words in Zachariah's prophecy had to do with guiding your feet into the way of Peace. You see, there is an enemy and he will try everything to keep you out of Peace...but you have power within to overcome those threats and those attacks. It looks like Isaiah had it right about this world today when he wrote that the earth would be covered with darkness (spiritual darkness), and the people would be in the dark about GOD and His wonders and promises to them.

The Believer has the greatest opportunity during this time of distress and anxiety, to convey and even communicate JESUS' Peace to a broken world. What a privilege to tell the person walking along the street, "Shalom" or "GOD bless you!" When you look into the eyes of a person fraught with anxiety and worry, you can pray with them and say to them, *"May the GOD of Peace bring peace to your heart"*, and you will shout with the angels on high...

**"PEACE on earth, good-will toward all men!"**





## The Bible In The News...

Do you remember when Nikita Khrushchev appeared at the U.N. and banged his shoe on the podium? This is what he was ranting about: *"Your children's children will live under socialism. You Americans are so gullible; no, you won't accept communism out right, but we'll keep feeding you small doses of socialism until you will finally wake up one morning and find that you are under communism. We won't have to fight you; we'll so weaken your economy until you fall like overripe fruit into our hands!"* (email submitted by Dan Ramsey)



Nikita Khrushchev is gone but the message he gave in 1959 at the U.N. is coming to completion through a demonic power that is duping the United States into believing a lie - that it's no longer "for the people and by the people" but "for the government and by the government" (see photo below). May you stand strong in these perilous hours to keep your light shining bright no matter what!



**Welcome to Utah**  
**ATTENTION CRIMINALS AND TERRORISTS...**  
Over 2,000 Carry a Handgun  
They are armed and prepared to defend themselves and others against acts of criminal violence  
**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**  
Colorado, however, has been disarmed for your convenience!



**"...and His Name shall be called... Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty GOD, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!"**

(Isaiah 9:6)

**Let Your Light Shine...**



This is a random act of kindness... Your snack is on me! Enjoy your day

This note stuck to a vending machine, with a dollar attached.

You will see the full scope of giving this year if you perform a Random Act of Kindness for someone less fortunate... try it; you might make it a habit:

**"Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven!"**

(Matthew 5:16)



## Remembering Pearl Harbor...

President Franklin Roosevelt assigned Admiral Chester Nimitz to the position of Commander of the Pacific Fleet on December 24, 1941. When he landed at Pearl Harbor, there was a spirit of absolute despair, dejection and defeat; you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. As he was given a boat tour of the damages, he was asked, "Well, Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" He shocked everyone within the sound of his voice with this reply, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or GOD was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" "What do you mean," was the next question asked. Nimitz's explanation:

- 1) The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and sunk, we would've lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.
- 2) When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would've had to tow every one of those damaged ships to America to be repaired. As it is, I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.
- 3) Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war was in the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make. GOD was taking care of America!

Admiral Nimitz, born and bred in Texas, was an optimist from the get-go. He was able to see the silver lining in a situation that anyone else would've labeled ruined. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job...a GOD-fearing man.



## Homes Of Refuge

Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable



"Can you give me a pair of shoes so I can go visit my mom in the hospital?" young Rumaldo asked us as he looked up into our faces, scanning them for compassion. Looking down at his feet, our hearts were touched when we noticed the tattered shoes that he was wearing. It was true; he needed shoes, and the ones on his feet weren't going to do the job. Rumaldo proceeded to pour out the story of how his mom and little brother had been hit by a taxi. The accident resulted in the death of his 4-yr-old brother, and his mom had already lost one leg, with possibility of losing the other. This small boy, waiting there in the Santa Maria Children's Home for our arrival, simply wanted a pair of shoes so he could wear them to the hospital to visit his mom. We had arrived at the orphanage only minutes before, so as we looked through the clothes that we had brought with us, we looked especially for a pair of shoes for Rumaldo. And do you know what? In that bag that Tony was looking into was a perfect pair of shoes for Rumaldo! What a fresh reminder to our hearts that GOD cares about every need, and His timing is perfect! We had gotten there just in time for this young boy to go see his mom....

**Working together for the Kingdom Tony & Rosa Homes of Refuge - Peru**

