

## ~GIFTS, PRESENTS (689)

- Gifts Given To Open The Way For Benefits
- Gifts To Kings, Prophets And Others
- In Connection With The Sanctuary
- Admonition Concerning Gifts
- Christian Giving

- From earliest times the giving of presents played an important role in daily life. Abraham's aged servant gave gifts of jewelry to Rebekah after seeing evidence that Yehowah had assigned her as a wife for Isaac.
- Here I am stationed at a fountain of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ([Genesis 24:13](#))
- What must occur is that the young woman to whom I shall say; Let your water jar down, please, that I may take a drink, and who will indeed say; Take a drink, and I shall also water your camels, this is the one you must assign to your servant, to Isaac, and by this let me know that you have performed loyal love with my master. ([Genesis 24:14](#))
- Well, it came about that before he had finished speaking, why, here coming out was Rebekah, who had been born to Bethuel the son of Milcah the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, and her water jar was upon her shoulder. ([Genesis 24:15](#))
- Now the young woman was very attractive in appearance, a virgin, and no man had had sexual intercourse with her, and she made her way down to the fountain and began to fill her water jar and then came up. ([Genesis 24:16](#))
- At once the servant ran to meet her and said; Give me, please, a little sip of water from your jar. ([Genesis 24:17](#))
- In turn she said; Drink, my lord. With that she quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ([Genesis 24:18](#))
- When she was finished giving him a drink, then she said; For your camels too I shall draw water until they are done drinking. ([Genesis 24:19](#))

- So she quickly emptied her jar into the drinking trough and ran yet again and again to the well to draw water, and kept drawing for all his camels.  
([Genesis 24:20](#))
- All the while the man was gazing at her in wonder, keeping silent to know whether Yehowah had made his trip successful or not.  
([Genesis 24:21](#))
- Consequently it came about that, when the camels had finished drinking, then the man took a gold nose ring of a half shekel in weight and two bracelets for her hands, ten shekels of gold was their weight. ([Genesis 24:22](#))
- Then, upon receiving the approval of Laban and Bethuel for the marriage, Abraham's servant gave additional gifts to Rebekah and also choice things to her brother and to her mother.
- Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said; From Yehowah this thing has issued. We are unable to speak bad or good to you.  
([Genesis 24:50](#))
- Here is Rebekah before you. Take her and go, and let her become a wife to the son of your master, just as Yehowah has spoken. ([Genesis 24:51](#))
- And it came about that when Abraham's servant had heard their words, he at once prostrated himself on the earth before Yehowah. ([Genesis 24:52](#))
- And the servant began to bring out articles of silver and articles of gold and garments and to give them to Rebekah, and he gave choice things to her brother and to her mother. ([Genesis 24:53](#))
- Later, Abraham turned all his possessions over to Isaac, but he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away.
- Later on Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac. ([Genesis 25:5](#))
- But to the sons of the concubines that Abraham had Abraham gave gifts. Then he sent them away from Isaac his son, while he was still alive, eastward, to the land of the East. ([Genesis 25:6](#))

- Consequently their father gave them many gifts in silver and in gold and in choice things along with fortified cities in Judah, but the kingdom he gave to Jehoram, for he was the firstborn. (**2 Chronicles 21:3**)
- It may have been a practice in patriarchal times to give gifts to those who had suffered adversity.
- When Yehowah turned back the captive condition of Job, his brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances not only came to comfort him but each one gave him, a piece of money and each one a gold ring.
- And Yehowah himself turned back the captive condition of Job when he prayed in behalf of his companions, and Yehowah began to give in addition all that had been Job's, in double amount. (**Job 42:10**)
- And there kept coming to him all his brothers and all his sisters and all those formerly knowing him, and they began to eat bread with him in his house and to sympathize with him and to comfort him over all the calamity that Yehowah had let come upon him, and they proceeded each one to give him a piece of money and each one a gold ring. (**Job 42:11**)

### •• Gifts Given To Open The Way For Benefits

- **Gifts** were often given with a view to gaining something desirable. Jacob got ready an impressive gift of livestock for Esau in order to find favor in the eyes of his brother.
- And he kept lodging there on that night. And from what came to his hand he proceeded to take a gift for Esau his brother. (**Genesis 32:13**)
- Two hundred she-goats and twenty he-goats, two hundred female sheep and twenty rams. (**Genesis 32:14**)
- Thirty camels giving suck and their young ones, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty she-asses and ten full-grown asses. (**Genesis 32:15**)
- Then he handed over to his servants one drove after another by itself and repeatedly said to his servants; Cross over ahead of

me, and you are to set an interval between drove and drove.  
([Genesis 32:16](#))

- Further he commanded the first one, saying; In case that Esau my brother should meet you and ask you, saying; To whom do you belong, and where are you going and to whom do these ahead of you belong? ([Genesis 32:17](#))
- Then you must say; To your servant, to Jacob. A gift it is, sent to my lord, to Esau, and look! He himself is also behind us. ([Genesis 32:18](#))
- He now said; What do you mean by all this camp of travelers that I have met? To this he said; In order to find favor in the eyes of my lord. ([Genesis 33:8](#))
- Jacob's insistence that Esau accept this **gift** can be better understood when considering that, according to Eastern custom, refusing to accept a **gift** denoted that favor would not be granted.
- However, Jacob said; No, please. If, now, I have found favor in your eyes, then you must take my **gift** at my hand, because in harmony with its purpose I have seen your face as though seeing God's face in that you received me with pleasure. ([Genesis 33:10](#))
- Also, to gain the goodwill of the harsh-speaking food administrator of Egypt, who was actually their own brother Joseph, the sons of Jacob followed through on their father's recommendation to take along a gift of the finest products of the land.
- The man who is the lord of the country spoke harshly with us, since he took us for men spying on the country. ([Genesis 42:30](#))
- So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this; Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a **gift**, a little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, pistachio nuts and almonds. ([Genesis 43:11](#))
- And they proceeded to get the **gift** ready for Joseph's coming at noon, because they had heard that it was there they were going to eat bread. ([Genesis 43:25](#))

- When Joseph went on into the house, then they brought the gift that was in their hand to him into the house, and prostrated themselves to him to the earth. (**Genesis 43:26**)
- King Asa sent a present of silver and gold to Ben-hadad in order to induce him to break his covenant with Baasha, the king of Israel.
- At that Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the house of the king and put them in the hand of his servants, and King Asa now sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon the son of Hezion, the king of Syria, who was dwelling in Damascus, saying; (**1 Kings 15:18**)
- There is a covenant between me and you, between my father and your father. Here I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come, do break your covenant with Baasha the king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me. (**1 Kings 15:19**)
- Regarding the benefits to the giver, the proverb says;
- A man's **gift** will make a large opening for him, and it will lead him even before great people. (**Proverbs 18:16**)
- A **gift** can subdue anger, but it will not allay the rage of an able-bodied man against one who commits adultery with his wife, regardless of how great a present is offered by the adulterer.
- A **gift** made in secrecy subdues anger, and a bribe in the bosom, strong rage. (**Proverbs 21:14**)
- Anyone committing adultery with a woman is in want of heart, he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin. (**Proverbs 6:32**)
- A plague and dishonor he will find, and his reproach itself will not be wiped out. (**Proverbs 6:33**)
- For the rage of an able-bodied man is jealousy, and he will not show compassion in the day of vengeance. (**Proverbs 6:34**)
- He will have no consideration for any sort of ransom, neither will he show willingness, no matter how large you make the **present**. (**Proverbs 6:35**)

## · Gifts To Kings, Prophets And Others

- The indications are that it was customary for those going to see a king to bring gifts. Good-for-nothing men who had no respect for Saul are singled out as not bringing any **gift** to him.
- Solomon especially was given **gifts** in great abundance by those coming from distant lands to hear his wisdom.
- The astrologers who came to see, the one born king of the Jews; were simply following this custom when they presented **gifts** to the young child Jesus.
- As for the good-for-nothing men, they said; How will this one save us? Accordingly they despised him, and they did not bring any **gift** to him. But he continued like one grown speechless. (**1 Samuel 10:27**)
- Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold and a very great deal of balsam oil and precious stones. There never came anymore the like of that balsam oil for quantity such as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. (**1 Kings 10:10**)
- And all the people of the earth were seeking the face of Solomon to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart. (**1 Kings 10:24**)
- And they were bringing each his **gift**, articles of silver and articles of gold and garments and armor and balsam oil, horses and mules, as a yearly matter of course. (**1 Kings 10:25**)
- After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, look! Astrologers from eastern parts came to Jerusalem. (**Matthew 2:1**)
- Saying; Where is the one born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when we were in the east, and we have come to do him obeisance. (**Matthew 2:2**)
- And when they went into the house they saw the young child with Mary its mother, and, falling down, they did obeisance to it. They also opened their treasures and presented it with **gifts**, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (**Matthew 2:11**)
- At that time Berodach-baladan the son of Baladan the king of

Babylon sent letters and a **gift** to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. (**2 Kings 20:12**)

- And Yehowah kept the kingdom firmly established in his hand, and all Judah continued to give presents to Jehoshaphat, and he came to have riches and glory in abundance. (**2 Chronicles 17:5**)
- Similarly, at times those going to inquire of a prophet took a **gift** along.
- At this Saul said to his attendant; And if we should go, what shall we bring to the man? Because the bread itself has disappeared from our receptacles, and, as a **gift**, there is nothing to bring to the man of the true God. What is there with us? (**1 Samuel 9:7**)
- At that the king said to Hazael; Take a gift in your hand and go and meet the man of the true God, and you must inquire of Yehowah through him, saying; Shall I revive from this sickness? (**2 Kings 8:8**)
- So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every sort of good thing of Damascus, the load of forty camels, and came and stood before him and said; Your son, Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, has sent me to you, saying; Shall I revive from this sickness? (**2 Kings 8:9**)
- But God's prophets did not expect or seek a gift for their services, as is evident from Elisha's refusal to accept a blessing **gift** at Naaman's hand.
- Then he went back to the man of the true God, he with all his camp, and came and stood before him and said; Here, now, I certainly know that there is no God anywhere in the earth but in Israel. And now accept, please, a blessing **gift** from your servant. (**2 Kings 5:15**)
- However, he said; As Yehowah before whom I do stand is living, I will not accept it. And he began to urge him to accept it, but he kept refusing. (**2 Kings 5:16**)
- **Gifts** were often given to reward those successfully completing a certain task.

- **At this Joab said to the man who was telling him; And here you saw it, and why did you not strike him down to the earth there? Then it would have been my obligation to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt. (2 Samuel 18:11)**
- **But if the dream and its interpretation you will show, gifts and a present and much dignity you will receive on my part. Therefore show me the very dream and its interpretation. (Daniel 2:6)**
- **Consequently the king made Daniel someone great, and many big gifts he gave to him, and he made him the ruler over all the jurisdictional district of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. (Daniel 2:48)**
- **And I myself have heard concerning you, that you are able to furnish interpretations and to untie knots themselves. Now, if you are able to read the writing and to make known to me its very interpretation, with purple you will be clothed, with a necklace of gold around your neck, and as the third one in the kingdom you will rule. (Daniel 5:16)**
- **At that time Daniel was answering and saying before the king; Let your gifts prove to be to you yourself, and your presents do you give to others. However, I shall read the writing itself to the king, and the interpretation I shall make known to him. (Daniel 5:17)**
- **At that time Belshazzar commanded, and they clothed Daniel with purple, with a necklace of gold about his neck, and they heralded concerning him that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom. (Daniel 5:29)**
- **According to the Law, an emancipated slave was not to be sent away empty-handed but was to receive a gift, something from the flock, the threshing floor, and the oil and winepress.**
- **And in case you should send him out from you as one set free, you must not send him out empty-handed. (Deuteronomy 15:13)**
- **You should surely equip him with something from your flock and your threshing floor and your oil and winepress. Just as Yehowah your God has blessed you, you should give to him. (Deuteronomy 15:14)**

- **Also, occasions of great rejoicing might be attended by the giving of presents.**

- **And Mordecai proceeded to write these things and send written documents to all the Jews that were in all the jurisdictional districts of King Ahasuerus, the nearby and the distant ones. (Esther 9:20)**

- **To impose upon them the obligation to be regularly holding the fourteenth day of the month Adar and the fifteenth day of it in each and every year. (Esther 9:21)**

- **According to the days on which the Jews had rested from their enemies and the month that was changed for them from grief to rejoicing and from mourning to a good day, to hold them as days of banqueting and rejoicing and sending of portions to one another and of **gifts** to the poor people. (Esther 9:22)**

- **And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and enjoy themselves, and they will send **gifts** to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. (Revelation 11:10)**

#### ·· **In Connection With The Sanctuary**

- **God took the Levites as a **gift** for the house of Aaron, as those given to Yehowah to carry on the service of the sanctuary.**

- **And I, look! I have taken your brothers, the Levites, from among the sons of Israel, as a **gift** for you, as those given to Yehowah to carry on the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:6)**

- **And you and your sons with you should safeguard your priesthood as regards every concern of the altar and as regards what is inside the curtain, and you men must render service. As a service of **gift** I shall give your priesthood, and the stranger drawing near should be put to death. (Numbers 18:7)**

- **Also, the Gibeonites and others who were made servants at the sanctuary were called Nethinim, meaning **Given Ones**.**

- **Accordingly Joshua constituted them on that day gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the assembly and for Yehowah's altar, down to this day, at the place that he should choose.**

**(Joshua 9:27)**

- **And the first inhabitants that were in their possession in their cities were the Israelites, the priests, the Levites and the Nethinim. (1 Chronicles 9:2)**
- **And from the Nethinim, whom David and the princes gave to the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim, all of whom had been designated by their names. (Ezra 8:20)**
- **Furthermore, the contributions for carrying on the service of the sanctuary and also the sacrifices are referred to as **gifts**.**
- **And it must come to be upon Aaron's forehead, and Aaron must answer for the error committed against the holy objects, which the sons of Israel will sanctify, that is to say, all their holy gift, and it must stay upon his forehead constantly, to gain approval for them before Yehowah. (Exodus 28:38)**
- **These are the seasonal festivals of Yehowah that you should proclaim as holy conventions, for presenting an offering made by fire to Yehowah. The burnt offering and the grain offering of the sacrifice and the drink offerings according to the daily schedule. (Leviticus 23:37)**
- **Besides the Sabbaths of Yehowah and besides your **gifts** and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your voluntary offerings, which you should give to Yehowah. (Leviticus 23:38)**
- **From all the **gifts** to you, you will contribute every sort of contribution to Yehowah, of the very best of it, as some holy thing from them. (Numbers 18:29)**
- **If, then, you are bringing your gift to the altar and you there remember that your brother has something against you. (Matthew 5:23)**
- **Leave your **gift** there in front of the altar, and go away, first make your peace with your brother, and then, when you have come back, offer up your **gift**. (Matthew 5:24)**
- **Now as he looked up he saw the rich dropping their **gifts** into the treasury chests. (Luke 21:1)**

- **By reason of his creatorship, Yehowah owns everything. Therefore, in giving material things for the furtherance of true worship, the **giver** is merely returning a portion of what he originally received from God.**

- **For to me belongs every wild animal of the forest, the beasts upon a thousand mountains. (Psalms 50:10)**

- **And yet, who am I and who are my people, that we should retain power to make voluntary offerings like this? For everything is from you, and out of your own hand we have given to you. (1 Chronicles 29:14)**

### · **Admonition Concerning Gifts**

- **Since **gifts** in the form of bribes can destroy the heart and pervert justice, the Scriptures admonish the hating of such **gifts**. Those who chase after gifts are condemned.**

- **You must not pervert judgment. You must not be partial or accept a bribe, for the bribe blinds the eyes of wise ones and distorts the words of righteous ones. (Deuteronomy 16:19)**

- **Justice, justice you should pursue, in order, that you may keep alive and may indeed take possession of the land that Yehowah your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:20)**

- **For mere oppression may make a wise one act crazy, and a gift can destroy the heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:7)**

- **The one making unjust profit is bringing ostracism upon his own house, but the hater of **gifts** is the one that will keep living. (Proverbs 15:27)**

- **Your princes are stubborn and partners with thieves. Every one of them is a lover of a bribe and a chaser after **gifts**. For a fatherless boy they do not render judgment, and even the legal case of a widow does not get admittance to them. (Isaiah 1:23)**

- **Moreover, the man boasting himself about a gift in falsehood, not doing according to his boasting, is compared to vaporous clouds and a wind without any downpour.**

- **As vaporous clouds and a wind without any downpour is a man**

boasting himself about a gift in falsehood. ([Proverbs 25:14](#))

- The **giver of gifts** may have many companions, but his giving cannot ensure lasting friendship.
- Many are those who soften the face of a noble, and everybody is a companion to the man making **gifts**. ([Proverbs 19:6](#))

### See Also **BRIBE**

- The **Christian Greek Scriptures** strongly censure certain practices in connection with the giving of **gifts**. Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees for overstepping the commandment to honor father and mother.
- According to them, if a person declared that his material things were a gift dedicated to God, he was free of obligation to use them to aid his parents, though he could personally continue to use them.
- Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying; ([Matthew 15:1](#))
- Why is it your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal. ([Matthew 15:2](#))
- In reply he said to them; Why is it you also overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition? ([Matthew 15:3](#))
- For example, God said; Honor your father and your mother, and, Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. ([Matthew 15:4](#))
- But you say; Whoever says to his father or mother; Whatever I have by which you might get benefit from me is a **gift** dedicated to God. ([Matthew 15:5](#))
- He must not honor his father at all. And so you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition. ([Matthew 15:6](#))
- There is no merit in giving because one expects something in return.
- Give to everyone asking you, and from the one taking your things

- away do not ask them back. (Luke 6:30)
- Also, just as you want men to do to you, do the same way to them. (Luke 6:31)
  - And if you love those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. (Luke 6:32)
  - And if you do good to those doing good to you, really of what credit is it to you? Even the sinners do the same. (Luke 6:33)
  - Also, if you lend without interest to those from whom you hope to receive, of what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend without interest to sinners that they may get back as much. (Luke 6:34)
  - To the contrary, continue to love your enemies and to do good and to lend without interest, not hoping for anything back, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind toward the unthankful and wicked. (Luke 6:35)
  - Continue becoming merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)
  - Next he proceeded to say also to the man that invited him; When you spread a dinner or evening meal, do not call your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors. Perhaps sometime they might also invite you in return and it would become a repayment to you. (Luke 14:12)
  - But when you spread a feast, invite poor people, crippled, lame, blind. (Luke 14:13)
  - And you will be happy, because they have nothing with which to repay you. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous ones. (Luke 14:14)
  - To be pleasing to Yehowah, giving must be done unselfishly and without showy display.
  - Hence when you go making gifts of mercy, do not blow a trumpet ahead of you, just as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they are having their reward in full. (Matthew 6:2)

- But you, when making **gifts** of mercy, **do not let your left hand know what your right is doing.** (**Matthew 6:3**)
- That your **gifts** of mercy may be in secret, then your Father who is looking on in secret will repay you. (**Matthew 6:4**)
- And if I give all my belongings to feed others, and if I hand over my body, that I may boast, but do not have love, I am not profited at all. (**1 Corinthians 13:3**)

**See Also CORBAN**

### **· Christian Giving**

- Early Christians made **gifts**, or contributions, in behalf of their needy brothers.
- For those in Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share up their things by a **contribution** to the poor of the holy ones in Jerusalem. (**Romans 15:26**)
- Now concerning the **collection** that is for the holy ones, just as I gave orders to the congregations of Galatia, do that way also yourselves. (**1 Corinthians 16:1**)
- Every first day of the week let each of you at his own house **set something aside in store as he may be prospering**, so that when I arrive collections will not take place then. (**1 Corinthians 16:2**)
- However, all such **gifts** were voluntary, as is indicated by Paul's words.
- Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (**2 Corinthians 9:7**)
- Additionally, they aided those who devoted themselves fully to the Christian ministry, as did the apostle Paul. However, though very much appreciating the **gifts** sent to him by his brothers, Paul did not seek a **gift**.
- In fact, you Philippians, also know that at the start of declaring the Good News, when I departed from Macedonia, not a

congregation took a share with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. (**Philippians 4:15**)

- Because, even in Thessalonica, you sent something to me both once and a second time for my need. (**Philippians 4:16**)
- Not that I am earnestly seeking the **gift**, but that I am earnestly seeking the fruitage that brings more credit to your account. (**Philippians 4:17**)
- Christians can give things more valuable than material presents. They can give of their time and abilities to edify and build others up mentally and spiritually, which brings greater happiness. The greatest **gift** that one can offer to another is an understanding of God's Word, for this can lead the receiver to everlasting life.
- Jesus answered them and said; Most truly I say to you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate from the loaves and were satisfied. (**John 6:26**)
- Work, not for the food that perishes, but for the food that remains for life everlasting, which the Son of man will give you, for upon this one the Father, even God, has put his seal of approval. (**John 6:27**)
- This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ. (**John 17:3**)
- I have exhibited to you in all things that by thus laboring you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in **giving** than there is in receiving. (**Acts of Apostles 20:35**)
- For my part I will most gladly spend and be completely spent for your souls. If I love you the more abundantly, am I to be loved the less? (**2 Corinthians 12:15**)
- And the spirit and the bride keep on saying; Come! And let anyone hearing say; Come! And let anyone thirsting come, let anyone that wishes take lifes water free. (**Revelation 22:17**)

**See Also GIFTS OF MERCY**

