

## Gift – Pt 1 Meaning of the word, and our gift of service

This is our first study on the word “gift”. There are 104 occurrences of the word “gift” in the Holy scriptures. In this study we will look at the meaning of the word “gift” and establish three points – (1) God’s children bring gifts to their heavenly Father, (2) the children of God received gifts from their heavenly Father, and (3) God is no respecter of persons and nor does He take a gift.

Meaning from the scriptures–

\* A gift is a present – 2Chr.32: 23, is a reward – Dan.5: 17, is similar to a bribe – 1 Sam.12: 3, c.f.Ex 23:8, and is something you do not pay the cost for.– 2 Sam19: 42–

Meaning from other Greek words that are translated “gift”– acceptable, benefit, dividing asunder, favour, free gift, giving, grace, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, offering, and thanks.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

### 1. The children of God (Israel) brought gifts to their heavenly Father

i) The priests office is a service of gift

“Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar...I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death” (Num 18:7).

### 2. God’s children (Israel) received holy gifts

“And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord” (Ex.28:38).

### 3. The Lord is no respect of persons nor does He take a gift

“Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you...there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts” (2 Chr.19: 7)

Illustration

When a person decides will offer himself as a gift in the service of the Lord he will teach error, he will lift up himself, and his gift of a living sacrifice will be defiled by God. When “the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul...an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him” (1 Sam.16:14). Saul’s gift of service was no longer accepted by God!

Questions to think about.

i) How can God be no respecter of persons, and receive no gift, yet in another verse, receive gifts from his children?

Answers from the scriptures

i) Context determines meaning. The meaning of the word “gift” in Num.18 is a sacrifice. Whereas the meaning of “gift” in 2Chr.19: 7 – is taking a bribe, perverting judgment, and there is relationship between perverting judgment and gifts – Ex.23: 8– “And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous” c.f.–Deut.16: 19– “Thou shalt not...take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous”.

Let us offer our gift of service, our sacrifice of praise – in truth, and righteousness, that our heavenly Father receive our gifts and they be not polluted by our communion with darkness!