

This "Present" Darkness

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What was the theme of the movie "How the Grinch stole Christmas"?



What are the pros and cons of gift giving at Christmas?



The Christmas gifts

Where did the idea of giving gifts at Christmas come from? The wise men who came from the east bearing gifts.

In the cathedral in Cologne, Germany is this casket of the Three Wise Men which rests on the High Altar. The remains of the Three Wise Men were brought to the cathedral by an Archbishop in 1164 from Italy where they had been kept in a marble sarcophagus. The citizens of Cologne decided such important relics should be encased in gold, silver and precious stones.

The most famous craftsman traveled all the way from Vienna with his craftsmen to Cologne in 1180. The casket took well over forty years to complete and was made to look like a basilica.

We of course find it very hard to believe that the claims made for these being genuine could be true. However, in 1979 research dated the material the bones were wrapped in dated to between the second and fourth century A.D.

The Giver of all good gifts

James 1:16-18 ... every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..."

God's greatest gift: John 4:10

Jesus answered and said to her,

"If you knew

a) the gift of God, and

b) who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,'

1. *you would have asked Him*, and
2. He would have given you living water."

