

Christmas: Why Would the King of kings be Born in a Manger?

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I. Introduction

We've all heard the tale of Jesus being born in a manger. Every Christmas we hear this story or read it in our Christmas cards. But why on earth would the King of the world be born in such a lowly state? What was God trying to tell us when He took the most powerful and regal being in the universe and had Him born in a stable? What was He saying about power and prestige, about the lowly and their self-worth, about you and the lies that destroy your self-worth?

II. Christmas: Why was Jesus Born in a Manger?

Everything that predicted and announced Jesus' birth said that He would be a conquering and ruling King. He was to come from the royal line of King David and rule forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). He would rule the world, totally and completely (Psalm 2). He would crush His enemies before Him (Psalm 110). He would vanquish His people's enemies including the antichrist, Satan, and death (Luke 1:67-75; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-14). His name would be Jesus, He would be known as the Son of the Highest, He would possess the throne of His father David, He would rule over Israel, and there would be no end to His Kingdom (Luke 1:31-33). He would right every wrong, bring the proud to their knees, and raise the lowly to heights unimaginable (not least of which a poor young girl who would rise to the position of mother to Messiah) (Luke 1:46-55). In other words, Jesus would be **the** King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). There would be NO ONE more regal, important, or powerful.

Therefore, it is extremely surprising and puzzling the family into which Jesus was born and the circumstances in which He was born. In light of who Jesus was predicted to be, everything about His birth, makes absolutely no sense:

Jesus was basically born in a barn¹ and His first bed was a feeding trough, Luke 2:7.

The first to welcome this King of kings were filthy, nobody shepherds, Luke 2:8-20.

Jesus was born not into royalty but poverty; His parents were nobodies who were poor, Luke 2:22-24 cf. Leviticus 12:8—only the very poor would bring two turtledoves or pigeons as an offering for purification after childbirth.

How in the world could this individual be King of kings and Lord of lords? And why would God allow His only beloved Son to be born in such conditions and to such parents? Why would the Savior of the world be born like this?

¹ The original word for "inn" in Luke 2:7 can mean *lodging* or *guest-room*. This has led some to believe that Jesus was not born in a barn or stable but a house with a lower floor (or side area) that served as a keeping-place for the families' animals. Since there was no guest-room available, Mary and Joseph stayed in this "stable" area where Jesus was born and placed in a manger.

What did Jesus come to save us from? Who's the enemy; who held us captive? Jesus didn't come to save us from an oppressive king who had armies upon armies holding us hostage. No, we were held captive by an ideology, by a deceptive philosophy designed to get us to do Satan's will (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:26). How do we escape this enemy? God needs to renew our minds (Romans 12:2). Thus, our enemy is not external but internal.

Yes, one day Jesus will come with a sword and He will destroy all of His enemies, including Satan and death (Revelation 19:11-20:14). But the first time Jesus came, He came with an offer of peace (Ephesians 2:14-22). He came to conquer our hearts. What happens to every individual who believes in Jesus Christ? Jesus' Spirit comes and takes up permanent residence in their hearts (Galatians 4:6). One of Jesus' names is Immanuel, what does it mean? "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Why, what does Jesus want with us? He wants to set us free (Luke 4:18), but He would do so through His Spirit. He gives us eyes to see ourselves and everything else crystal clear.

In Psalm 139:13-16, God informs us that He personally wove us together in our mother's womb. He's responsible for our personality, our likes and dislikes, our talents and abilities. And in His eyes we are something marvelous and wonderful, 139:14, and made for a specific purpose in this life, 139:16. Therefore, Mary wasn't supposed to be some poor, unknown girl, but the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph was not supposed to be some unknown carpenter who lives in poverty, but the step-father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 8:1-11: Who was the woman caught in adultery supposed to be? Who did she think she was? Who held her captive and what did she need saving from? Who did the crowd think she was? Who did Jesus think she was? Who are you supposed to be; what do you see?

That baby in the manger wasn't meant to be a cute and touching story that we put in Christmas cards. Through that story, God was saying to us,

"Your salvation will be accomplished through a lowly man, whom the world will see as insignificant. He will be born to nobody parents in a nowhere town. But He will save everyone and set them free, not just the rich and mighty, but the lowly in society. My royal family will be made up of the big and small, of everyone who receives My Son's salvation from the smallest to the greatest. But my salvation will not be accomplished through violence and weaponry. It will be accomplished through your heart and mind. I will give you eyes to see everything clearly, especially yourself."

III. Conclusion

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.