

# **SIMPLE CHRISTMAS**

**"Simple Offerings: A Manger for the Babe"**

**Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 2:11**

**Spoiler Alert**  
**Some love trying to debunk traditional Christmas stories!**

1. Was Jesus actually born on December 25<sup>th</sup>?
  - \* Recognized the place and day by early **A.D. 200**
  - \* Emperor Constantine in A.D. 327
  - \* And yes, shepherds did keep their flocks out in December??

Bottom Line: **COULD HAVE BEEN**

2. The Infamous Inn Keeper and no room in the Inn
  - \* Notice an Inn Keeper is **NEVER MENTIONED**
  - \* "Inn" is better translated **GUEST ROOM / UPPER ROOM**

Bottom Line: **LITERARY LICENSE**

## **SIMPLE CHRISTMAS: SIMPLE OFFERINGS**

*"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn"*  
Luke 2:7

Inn—Greek word “kataluma” means **GUEST ROOM / UPPER ROOM**

“No room for them in the guest room”...because everyone was coming home to participate in the census.  
(Vs.2)

1. Was it an Inn? **PROBABLY NOT**  
Luke 10:34 Good Samaritan took him to an Inn...  
The word for inn and guest room are **DIFFERENT**
2. Was it more like our Airbnb's? **MAYBE**
3. Was it the home of a relative they knew? **PROBABLY**  
Bethlehem was Joseph's home town

Description of a typical first century home  
\*BTW, The Church of the Nativity is built over the cave believed to be the birth place of Jesus.

If this was a home, with cave-cattle stall attached, this could explain the timing of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:11 coming to a house to bring gifts to the one born King of the Jews.

## **SIMPLE CHRISTMAS: DON'T MISS LUKE'S POINT**

1. God works in history to write **HIS-STORY**

Luke 2:3-4 fulfills prophecy of Micah 5:2

2. Jesus' humble birth, being laid in a manger, makes Him accessible to the **LEAST, LAST, LOST, LONELY**

\* Theme of the Gospel of Luke (Luke 4:16-22)

3. The Apostle Paul says this in a more theological way in  
Philippians 2:5-10

\* The birth of Jesus and His death were both **SCANDALS**

## **SIMPLE CHRISTMAS SIMPLE OFFERINGS FROM YOU**

1. Offer Him what you **DO HAVE**

Examples: Shepherds staff; boys lunch; cup of water

2. Look for those you **CAN HELP**

“...whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me...” Matthew 25:40

3. Know that when you follow God it will **COST**

4. Welcome Jesus first into your **HEART AND HOME**

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