



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Greetings Sir Knights:

‘And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.’ Luke 2:7 KJV

In Luke 2, verses 1-19 are commonly recited at Christmas - appropriately as they contain the account of Jesus’s birth and the announcement and witness of the Savior by the shepherds.

The first seven verses have been referred to as being secular – no mention of the hand of God - just a simple account of the birth of a child in Bethlehem.

Luke chose to be quite brief in the account of the birth of Christ and thus over time we have filled in “the gaps”.

In particular, verse 7 - a simple verse, yet so much commentary in those twenty-nine words. Many have presented darker and literal interpretations of the dissection and parsing of the phrases within the verse - such as the deeper meaning of:

- **Swaddling clothes** – Representation of poverty and/or of the sins of the world that were bound upon us?
- **Laid him in a manger** – Why something so simple and not majestic? Wasn’t there something better fit for a King?
- **No room for them in the inn** – That Mary, Joseph and Jesus were not treated hospitably?

In the end could another simpler interpretation be made – summing up and putting all the dissected phrases of this single verse together with the simplicity of Luke’s account? - God gave us his only son – our salvation.

Much more is written about the life Jesus - His teachings, crucifixion, death, and resurrection – than of his birth. Yet all of that cannot take place without the simple – yet powerful story of His birth.

Merry Christmas



I continue with prayers for you, your families and loved ones to be safe and happy not only during these times, but for all times.

Yours in Templary,
Sir Knight Sean M. Tomasic
REGC

A Letter from the Grand Prelate:

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)

Christmas! So many thoughts come to mind when we think of Christmas. Most of our thoughts are directed to the Christmas story that we all know and have heard time and again from our childhood to this very day. God, in all his glory, came to us in the form of a baby born in Bethlehem just as he promised and was foretold by the prophets. He gave us Jesus, His only Son, to be our deliverer. Just as He promised. God is always faithful. He will never break a promise. He will never leave us or forsake us. When we put our faith in God, the answer is always yes. Rejoice! He will always be true to His promises, therefore, let us proclaim again what the heavenly hosts said to the shepherds long ago, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14 NIV)

“Amen—So mote it be!” for His glory.

Rev. & S.K. Orville R. Jones, HPC, IKT, GP