

Manager, Inn, and Gifts



Luke 2:7 (KJV): "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 tells us that Jesus was laid in a manger when he was born due to a lack of space in the inn. The manger, a feeding trough for animals, became a humble cradle for the newborn Jesus. It's a powerful image highlighting his arrival in the world with simplicity and humility.

The Greek word for manger is "phatne" (fat nay), referring to a crib or stall for grass or hay. Animals would go to the manger to feed. The significance of Jesus being laid in a manger goes beyond his humble beginnings. It also symbolizes his role as the Shepherd and Savior who came to feed and nourish his flock. Just as animals come to the manger for sustenance, believers come to Jesus for spiritual nourishment and salvation.

In the traditional interpretation, we imagine the manger being in a stable or barn, where Mary and Joseph sought refuge for the night after being turned away from an inn, an inn similar to a Holiday Inn or Motel 6. Historically, this needs to be more accurate. Israel and the Ancient Near East didn't use external stables or barns. The inn, the family living quarters, and the stable were all part of the same building.

The Greek word for inn is kataluma (kat al oo mah), which means a guest room, an eating room, or a dining room. Another meaning of kataluma (kat al oo mah) is the upper room. The upper room, or inn, was used as a guest room to serve visitors or host dinner events like the Passover Feast.

In Luke 22:8-12, Jesus sends Peter and John to the city to meet a man carrying a bucket of water. They were instructed to follow the man to a house and then ask the master if they could use the guest-chamber or Kataluma (kat al oo mah) so that Jesus could eat the Passover Feast with his disciples. On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles and 120 were in a similar upper room when the Holy Ghost fell on them.

The Greek word for an inn like a hotel is pandochion (pan-dokh-i-on), also used in the Good Samaritan parable mentioned in Luke chapter 10, verse 34.

Luke 10:34 (KJV): "And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

Not all animals were allowed in the stable that was a part of the residence. Only the best animals that would be used for sacrifice were kept there. The stable was where animals were prepared to serve God. Jesus, as the ultimate sacrificial lamb, was laid in a manger, which signifies his purpose of being the ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

Matthew 2:11 (KJV): And when they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

When the wise men arrived, they arrived at the house where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stayed, giving Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The visit of the wise men, also known as the Magi, symbolizes the recognition and acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God by people from different cultures and backgrounds. The three gifts they presented were not just random items; Frankincense and Myrrh were more valuable than God; not only were they gifts fit for a king, but they also carried significant spiritual meaning.

Gold: Gold is a precious and highly valued metal representing Jesus' kingship and divinity. This gift acknowledges Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Frankincense: An aromatic resin used in incense symbolizes Jesus' role as our High Priest who intercedes for us with God. Burning incense also represents the prayers of the saints rising to God.

Myrrh: A fragrant resin traditionally used in burial practices, myrrh foreshadows Jesus' death and sacrifice for humanity's salvation. It is also a symbol of his future resurrection and victory over death.

In essence, the nativity scene of Jesus' birth, far from being a simple or ordinary event, is rich with symbolic meanings that echo the profound purpose of his life and mission. His humble manger cradle reinforces his modest beginnings and his role as the spiritual provider, similar to a shepherd nourishing his flock. The gifts presented by the Magi, each with its symbolic interpretation, encapsulate Jesus' divinity, his priestly function, and the ultimate sacrifice he would make for humanity. Thus, every detail of this account unveils a piece of the divine plan and purpose for Jesus Christ, the world's Savior.

X Tweets:

1. The Magi's gifts were a profound recognition of Jesus' kingship and sacrificial purpose. Each gift tells a story of His divine role in our lives. #Christmas #Nativity
2. Jesus chose to enter the world in humble surroundings, reminding us that greatness can emerge from simplicity. #Humility #Hope
3. Frankincense represents Jesus as our High Priest, interceding for us. A reminder of His constant presence in our lives! #Faith #Prayer
4. Myrrh, a gift fit for burial, foreshadows Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. His purpose was clear from the very beginning—our salvation! #Salvation #Love