

The King Who Was Born in a Barn

By House to House Heart to Heart

Jehovah had four thousand years to plan His Son's entrance into the world. He set the world stage for His arrival (Daniel 2:44; Galatians 4:4). He chose Jesus' race (seed of Abraham), nationality (Israelite), and ancestors (e.g., King David) (Matthew 1:1). He chose the mother (Mary) and birthplace (Bethlehem Ephratah) (Luke 1:26–27; Micah 5:2). He even planned His first trip (into Egypt) (Matthew 2:13–15).

Yet He did not choose a hospital.

Jesus' Father was not limited by poverty, power, or circumstances. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalms 50:10–12), even the whole earth and fullness thereof (Psalms 24:1). He is wise and omniscient (1 Timothy 1:17), and thus incapable of forgetting something. He is omnipotent (Genesis 18:24). He could have arranged for Him to have the best doctor, medical staff, nurses, and birthing suite the world had to offer.

Yet He did not arrange to have even a midwife present.

Jesus certainly deserved the best (Colossians 1:18). From our perspective, with our salvation at stake, we would have taken no chances of complications or an infection or debilitating disease.

Yet King Jesus was born into a manger.

Who could have predicted that? What words could explain it?

While on the surface it may seem that Jesus' birth was a haphazard affair, a closer look shows how meticulously God had thought everything through.

The Lamb of God was born in a barn.

Why Scripture does not specifically mention a barn, mangers were animal food troughs which typically were found in barns. How appropriate that "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) should be born in a barn. Who knows how many ewes had given birth to lambs in the very barn where Jesus was born? This city had been in existence since at least the time of Rachel (Genesis 35:19) and occupied by shepherds for more than a thousand years—since before the time of David (1 Samuel 16). Yet never had a lamb such as this been seen in this place.

Isaac's question, "Where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:7–8) had been echoing through the centuries as humanity looked for its Savior. Isaiah had prophesied of the Lamb, further heightening expectations. In His mind, God had slain this precious Lamb since before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19–20), but now the fulfillment was beginning.

How did Jesus come to be born outdoors? It was no more common for mother to give birth in a barn than it is now. It happened, no doubt, because God wanted it that way. Throughout the Roman Empire at this time, people were commanded to register for the purpose of taxation. Among the Jews, this meant a return to their ancestral lands and original

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the Stevens family as two of Barbara's cousins, Bill and Bob Green, both died this week.
- ◆ Sympathy also goes to the Chisam, Pippin, and Collins families after the death of Rosa Collins. Her service was yesterday.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Tinker Langston, Sue Hamblton, Barbara White, Larry Butler, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Annette Chisam Tilley.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains.



tribes (Luke 2:1–3). So thousands of Jews were traveling at this time, and those of David's family were all heading to Bethlehem.

It is likely that Joseph walked, while Mary, being nine months pregnant, rode sidesaddle on a donkey. Since Mary was "great with child," she and Joseph travelled slowly. She must have felt every jolt and rock in the road. Under normal circumstances, this would have been a fairly difficult three-day journey of about eighty-five miles, but under these circumstances, it may have taken five or six days.

(continued next week)

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
3-6	Melinda Abraham	3-8	Doyle & Peggy Johnson
3-6	Tinker Langston	3-27	Trey & Merle Scott
3-8	Norma Jones	3-31	Dana & Marsha Crisp
3-11	Lauren Hillhouse	Birthdays	
3-18	Karen Langston	3-29	Rene Blackburn
3-18	D. E. Pleasant	3-29	Richard Blackburn
3-22	Renee Hambelton		

Esther will be serving potato soup and chicken noodle soup plus dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes.

Jessica Smith will be taking family pictures after services in April for a new directory. Be sure to fill out and return the information sheet.

We need help filling 1,000 plastic eggs with candy for the Easter egg hunt Saturday morning. Wednesday 5 p.m. to help.

Date	Event	Details
Saturday, Mar. 30, 11:30 a.m.	Community Easter Egg Hunt	Need lots of help.
Fri-Sat-Sun April 12-14	Gospel Meeting Here	Devin Swindle, Speaker
April 14-17	Gospel Meeting Thayer	"Godly Habits" Speaker Scott Cain
Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	WE HOST!
Sat., June 1st	Vacation Bible School	Here

March Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer Communion & Closing Prayer

3-24	David Stevens	Titus Smith
3-31	Don Luna	Larry Butler

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

March 24, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Jesus: The King and The Lamb*

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#166, He's My King; #144, *O, Worship the King*

#382, *Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?* Communion Service

#578, *We Will Glorify*

Scripture Reading by Ima, John 12:12-13

Sermon and Invitation

#904, *Have You Been to Jesus*

#976, *I Shall Not Be Moved*

Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler	817-504-1604
Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355
Preacher	
Halbert Smith	417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us