



## *Why Was Jesus Born in a Stable?*

Luke 2:6-7 reads, "And so it was, that, while they [Joseph and Mary] were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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."

Have you ever wondered why Jesus was born in a stable? Why did God plan such a birth? Why had God planned for Jesus to be born in such humble surroundings? We believe that there were three reasons why Jesus was born in a stable.

### **Humility**

The first obvious reason was to demonstrate His humility. Jesus could have had a golden cradle with the finest of silks. He could have been born in the most elegant mansion. He could have worn the finest clothes from the most exclusive shops of the Middle East. He could have had legions of angels to attend to Him as His servants. But He did not have all of these. In fact, Jesus later said of Himself in Matthew 8:20, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

### **Sacrifice**

Not only was Jesus born in a stable to demonstrate His humility, He was born in a stable to indicate His sacrifice. Animals of common Jewish sacrifice were probably there. And now here is the Lamb of God born in that stable. It is a reminder or message that Jesus came to be sacrificed. John the Baptist described Jesus in John 1:29 as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." For the Jews, the sacrifice for sin were the offerings of sheep, oxen, etc. For you and I today, it is the *perfect* sacrifice of Jesus Christ, of whom John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Yes, you and I are sinners, on our way to a sinner's hell. The grace and mercy of God has

provided a *perfect* sin offering in Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God—who shed His blood on the Cross for the forgiveness of sin.

Why is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ perfect? One main reason is that Christ's sacrifice is for all time and for all people. Jesus offered up the final sacrifice for the sins of the people once for all when He offered up Himself. Jesus offered Himself only once and once for all—for all time and for all people. The sacrifice of Christ is the final sacrifice that a man or woman can come to in order to receive forgiveness of sins. His sacrifice is the sacrifice for all generations. Christ did not have to be repeatedly offered up to atone for sins. In fact, Hebrews 10:12 says that "this man [Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."

### **Accessibility**

Lastly, Jesus was born in a stable to exhibit His accessibility. The Son of God from heaven, at His birth, was readily accessible. Shepherds came to the stable without having to make appointments, without having to present ID cards, and without having to obtain permission from secret service or security agents. Wise men came to the Savior without having to write or request for an interview and without having to wait in a waiting room. Jesus was here not simply for the religious leaders, who rejected Him. He was also here for the meek, the lowly and the humble, and shepherds occupied the lowliest position of anyone in Israel. Jesus has said in John 6:37 that "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Isn't that wonderful?

Jesus was born in a stable to demonstrate His humility, indicate His sacrifice, and exhibit His accessibility. Two verses in the Bible capture these three items very well. The first verse, Philippians 2:8, says that Christ "being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." "Christ being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself..."—that indicates His humility. "And became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"—that indicates His sacrifice for our sins on the Cross. The second verse has been mentioned earlier, in John 6:37, where Jesus said that "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." That indicates His accessibility.

Jesus Christ is still accessible today. If you come to Him, He will not cast you out. Do you wish to come to the sacrifice of Christ to receive forgiveness of sins? Jesus loved you so much that He humbled Himself to die for your sins on the Cross. Shouldn't you humble yourself and acknowledge that you are a sinner?

The highlight of a Christmas play was to show the radiance of Jesus. An electric light bulb was hidden in the manger. All the stage lights were to be turned off so that only the brightness of the manger could be seen. At the appropriate time all lights went out! Silence was broken when one of the shepherds said in loud stage whisper, "Hey! You turned off Jesus!" Yes, don't turn off Jesus. Come to Him this Christmas. Through the risen Christ, you can make all things right with God.

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