

Luke 2:8-12 - Now there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

These are words I have heard ever since I can remember, but the awe and wonder never diminishes - God becoming flesh and dwelling among us! With the birth of Jesus came the Hope of our salvation that was secured when He died and rose from the grave. With the gift of His promised Holy Spirit, we received the very presence of Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Today, consider this scripture in light of the knowledge that Jesus has made His earthly dwelling place in every believer. Baby Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn. Let's consider the inn a metaphor for the world; the stable might represent the church, and the manger, you and me.

In our present world, there is no room for Jesus at the inn - He has been despised and rejected of men. But the stable - the church - received Him and gave Him shelter. Mary and Joseph laid Him in a manger - a feeding trough - and what does that represent? You...and me...and all who believe in Him!

We are the manger of the Lord, the place where Jesus has found to rest His head - the place where others can be nurtured and fed through us by the One who lives within us. We can present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, as those who host the presence of the Savior of the world. "Jesus, Jesus, rest your head; you have found a manger bed."