



THE BIRTH

OF THE SAVIOR

STUDIES IN LUKE 1-2

# The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



# The History

Augustus Caesar and Quirinius



*"So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:4)*



**the History**

**the Place**

**the Birth**

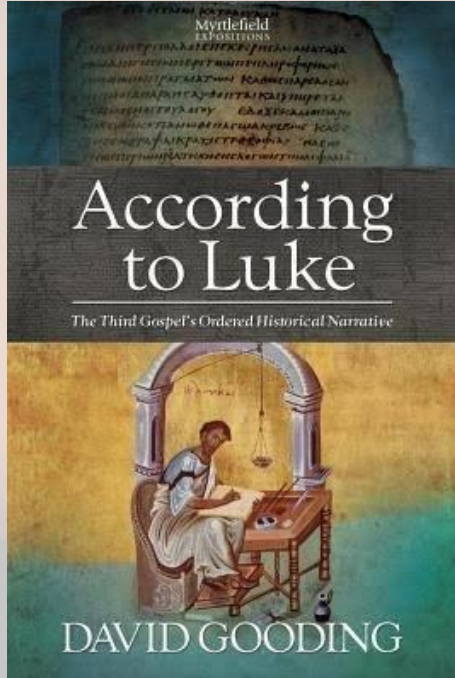
**the Child**

**the Response**



# The Place

Bethlehem



‘Divine providence so ordered things that it was the **supreme organizing genius** of the ancient world who arranged for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.’

*According to Luke - David Gooding*

# The Place

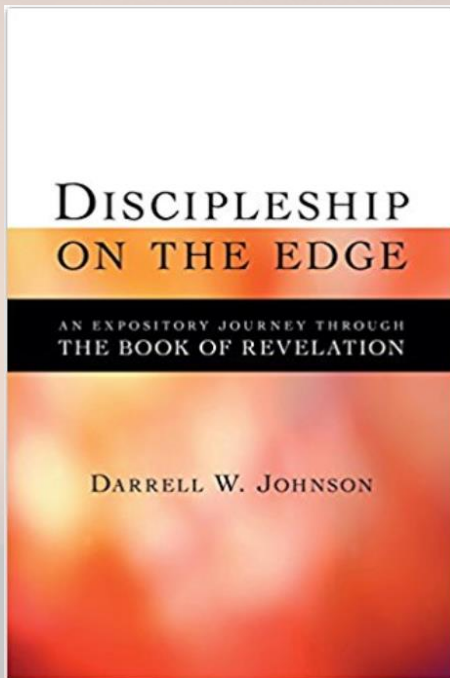
Bethlehem

*“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD;  
he directs it like a watercourse wherever he  
pleases.” (Proverbs 21:1)*



# The Place

Bethlehem



‘A throne! There is a supreme headquarters. There is a control center of the universe. There is a seat of authority and power... There is more to reality than we can know through our eyes and ears, our hands, nose and mouth... Do not be afraid. Things are not as they seem... Good news! The throne of the universe is occupied!... One who sits on the throne forever and ever.’

*Discipleship on the Edge – Darrell Johnson*



# The Birth

Placed in a manger... No guest room

*“She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” (Luke 2:7)*



# The Birth

Placed in a manger... No guest room

‘Once in royal David’s city’

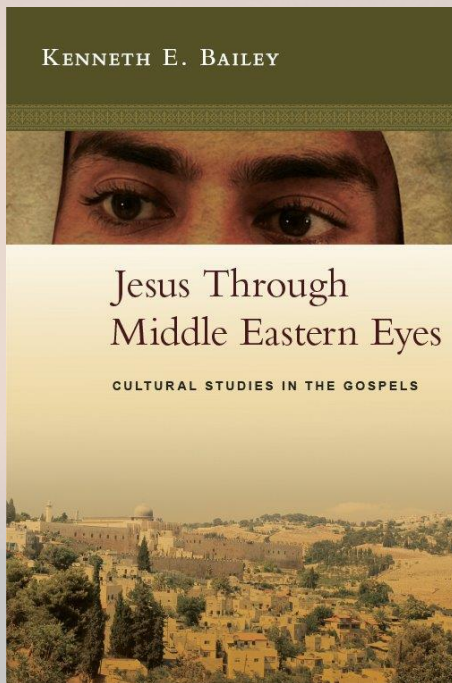
Once in royal David’s city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby,  
In a manger for His bed.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall.



# The Birth

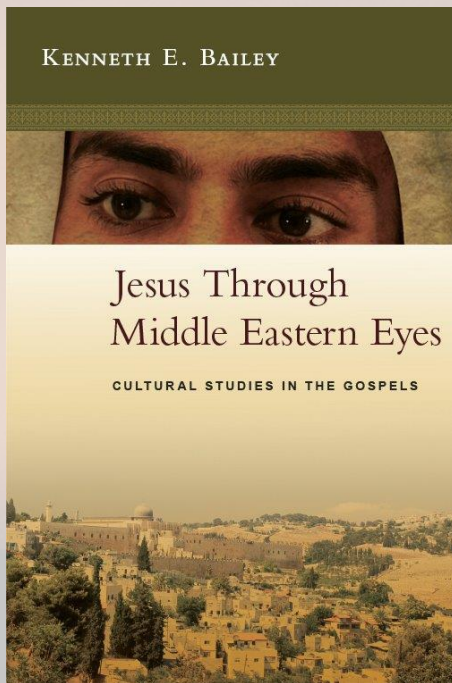
Placed in a manger... No guest room



‘Joseph was returning to his home village where he could easily find shelter. Because he was a descendent of King David nearly all doors in the village were open to him. Mary had relatives nearby and could have turned to them but did not. There was plenty of time to arrange the suitable housing...

# The Birth

Placed in a manger... No guest room

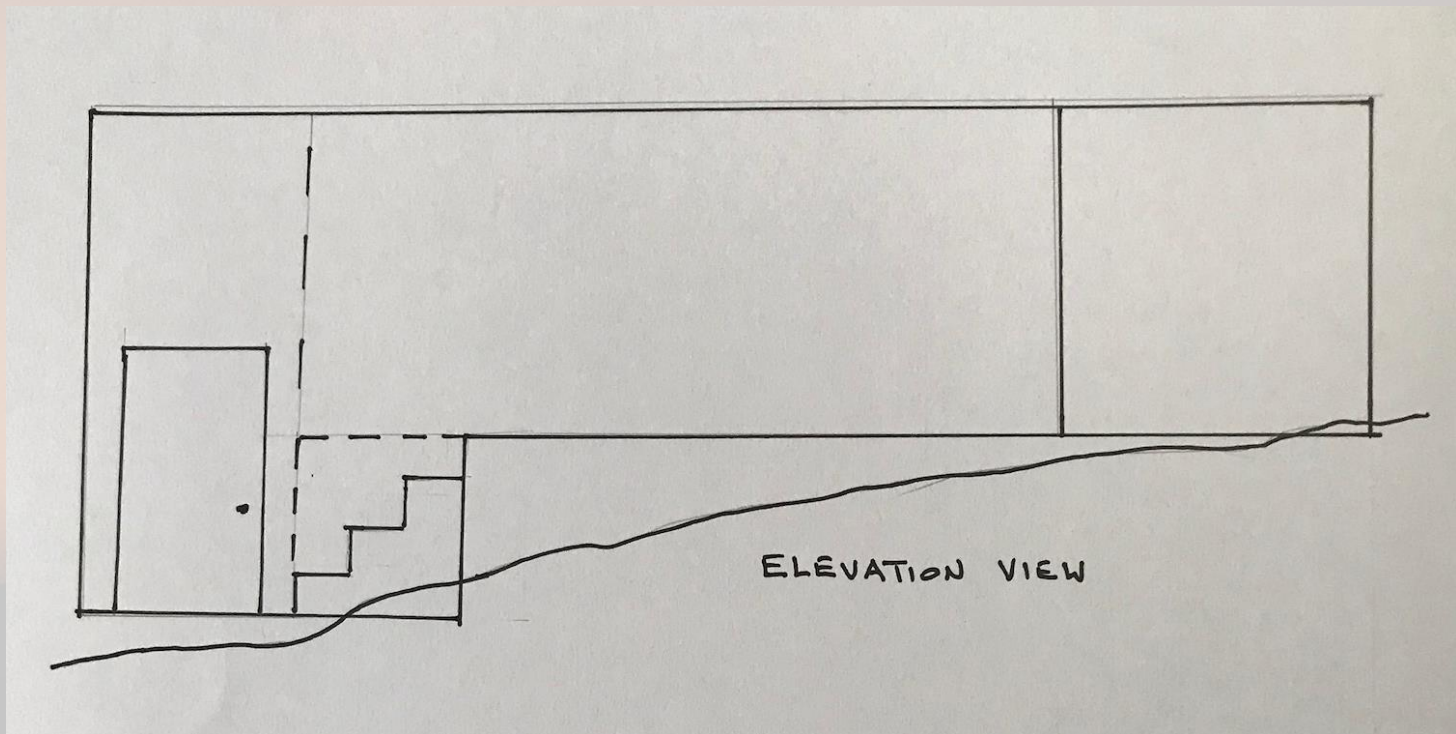


‘How could a Jewish town fail to help a young Jewish mother about to give birth? In the light of these cultural and historical realities, how are we to understand the [Bible] text? Two questions arise: **Where was the manger** and **What was the “inn”?**’

*Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes – Kenneth Bailey*

# The Birth

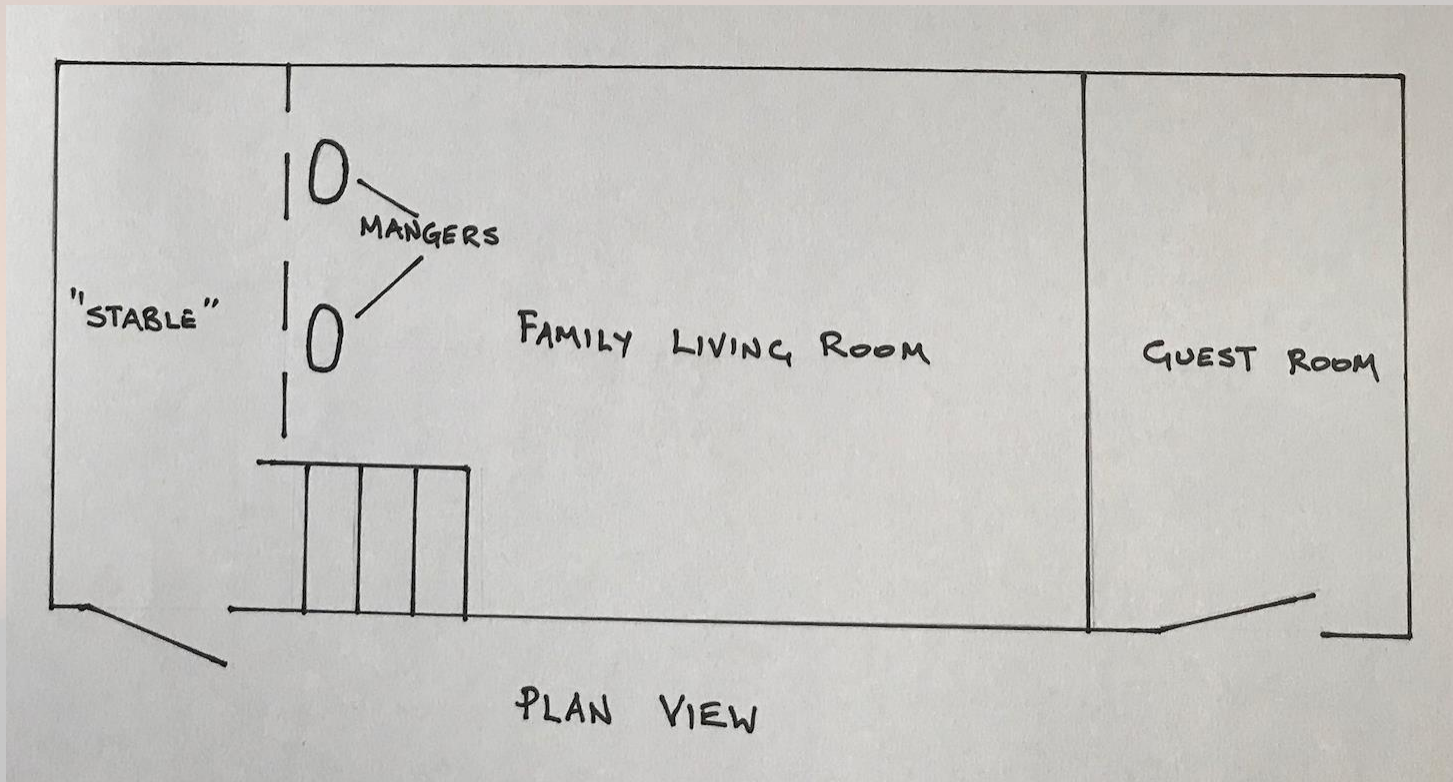
Placed in a manger... No guest room





# The Birth

Placed in a manger... No guest room



# The Child

Mary's firstborn son

*“She gave birth to her firstborn, a son.”*  
(Luke 2:7)



the History

the Place

the Birth

**the Child**

the Response

# The Child

Mary's firstborn son

The 'serpent crusher' (Gen 3)

Fulfills God's covenant with Abraham (Gen 12)

Passover foretold his rescue mission from our sins (Exod 12)

Occupies David's throne forever (Ps 89:4)

A great prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15)



# The Child

Mary's firstborn son

Peter –

*“You are the Christ, (the Messiah) the Son of the living God.”*  
(Matt.16:16)

Thomas –

*“My Lord and my God.”* (John 20:28)

Paul –

*“He is the image of the invisible God... he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.”* (Col. 1:15,17)

# The Child

Mary's firstborn son

Hebrews –

*“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”* (Heb. 1:3)

Revelation –

*“I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore.”* (Rev. 1:17–18)

# The Child

Mary's firstborn son

‘Mary did you know?’

Mary did you know that your baby  
boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby  
boy will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is  
heaven's perfect Lamb?  
This sleeping child you're holding is  
the great I am.



# The Response

Crown him, or Crucify him?

Pilate –

*“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”*  
(Matt.27:22)

The crowd –

*“Crucify him!”* (Matt.27:22)

Samaritan woman –

*“He told me everything I ever did.”* (Jn.4:39)

# The Response

Crown him, or Crucify him?

In the synagogue in Nazareth (Lk.4:29)

Nathanael –

*“You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”* (Jn.1:49)

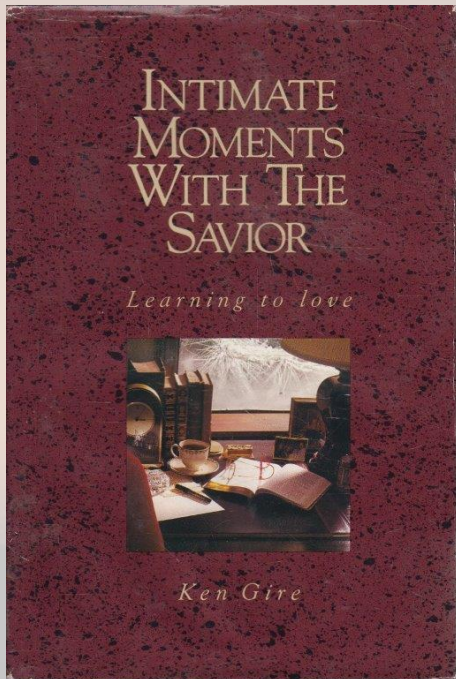
In the temple in Jerusalem (Jn.8:59)

Thomas –

*“My Lord and my God.”* (John 20:28)

# The Response

Crown him, or Crucify him?

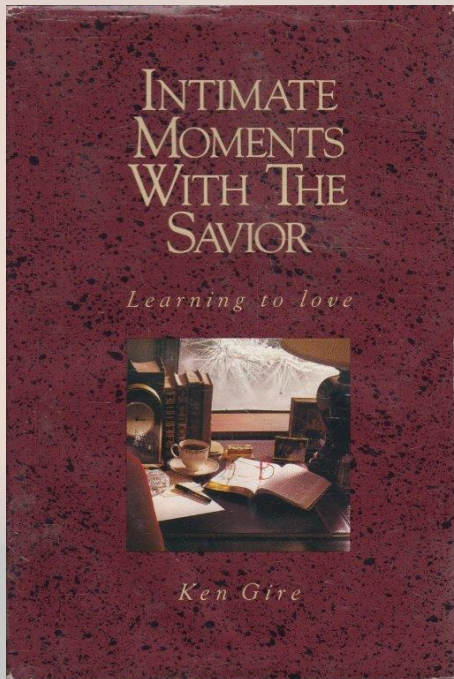


‘Though your own did not receive you, grant this hour that I may embrace you with open arms. Though Bethlehem overlooked you in the shuffle of the census, grant me the grace, this quiet moment, to be still and know that you are God... On my knees I confess that I am too conditioned to this world’s pomp and pageantry to recognise God cooing in a manger...



# The Response

Crown him, or Crucify him?



'And for those times when you yearn for my fellowship and stand at the door and knock, grant me a special sensitivity to the sound of that knock so I may be quick to my feet. Keep me from letting you stand out in the cold or from ever sending you away... May my heart be warm and inviting, so that when you do knock, [I] will always be waiting.'

*Intimate Moments with the Savior—Ken Gire*

