

## No Room At The Inn?

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7, ESV)

In the web comic "Finding Elim," a preacher is reading an article about the birth of Jesus. A little boy comes by and comments, "Well, it's their own fault for not making reservations online!" Of course, we should ask, why was there no room in the inn? Notice: Jesus was Mary's firstborn son, not her only son, but the first she would have. She wrapped him in swaddling cloths and put him in the manger, not her first choice. Though poor, Joseph and Mary sought an inn, which implies they could afford a room. Now, what else should we notice?

1. When Jesus came to his people Israel, he was rejected. We know this because the Bible tells us this happened when Jesus was an adult. (Jno. 1:11) But, did you realize that Jesus was rejected by Israel even before he was born? There was no place for his family in the inn. (Luk. 2:7) Had Israel known its Messiah's family would be visiting, why wouldn't they accommodate him? Though this was done perhaps out of ignorance, Israel did not accept Jesus even in the womb. Indeed, the blind man misses both Sun and Moon!

2. When Jesus was an adult and teaching publicly, he was persecuted by Israel's leaders. (Jno. 7:1) But, did you realize that Jesus was persecuted by Israel's leaders while he was a young man and was not yet teaching? It is written, "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son.'" (Mat. 2:13-15) The political leaders were threatened by Jesus even before he left his parents' house. Any wonder the threat to them grew up with Jesus? (Luk. 2:52)

3. When Jesus was raised from the dead, he was rejected by some Israelites. (Ac. 2:13) They accused the apostles of being drunk with wine! Have others treated your faith like this?

Let us make sure that we do not reject Jesus. Though God has overlooked past time of ignorance, let us be sure to truly repent in God's sight. (Ac. 17:30) If we draw near to God through Christ, let us not reject Jesus with our hearts and actions though we accept him with words. Ask yourself, is there room in your inn, your home, for Jesus? And all his family? (Mat. 12:50)