

Christmas 2009

I. The Christmas story is a two-part tale with four journeys. First, the geographical journey of Joseph and Mary from Galilee to Bethlehem because of the Emperor's demand for a census required Joseph to register there. Then a biological journey of the infant from Mary's womb, a place of warmth and comfort, to a cold world offering no room in the inn. At birth the child was wrapped in strips of cloth to his tiny limbs straight, and laid in a feeding trough for animals.

II. The second part of the tale records a journey of angels from the throne of God to a group of shepherds, vagrants held in low esteem-keeping watch by night, delivering to them a joyful message "A Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord". Finally a journey across a midnight field to a place where the lowliest join the homeless around a newborn in a feeding trough.

III. For journeys, across space into time, bringing joy and praise. We remember each of these journey this night (day), invited to make our own inner journey into the mystery of God who pitched His tent among us in the flesh of a child, and who continues to be in us now if we open our hearts and minds. We turn to the Father of Jesus our Lord, asking for the gifts of Christmas, peace, understanding and acceptance for ourselves and our world. Strength from the Bread first shared with a group of disciples in a Upper Room, a gift from a Man whose flesh was torn by words of hate, whose body hung from a tree; a piece of Bread containing a taste of salvation-the Spirit of God touching your soul.