





# MAYHEM IN THE MANGER

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Steve Vaughn December 14, 2025



**For to us a child is born, to us a  
son is given, and the government  
will be on his shoulders. And he  
will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Isaiah 9:6 NIV**

ISAIAH 9:6





**"[Mary] 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."**



**-In Luke's Gospel  
the word which is typically  
translated as "inn"  
is the Greek word *kataluma*.**



**Logic suggests that there is some basis for this translation.**



**1) Bethlehem probably had no inn or hotel since it was only six miles from Jerusalem, a mere two-hour walk.**

**Logic suggests that there is some basis for this translation.**



**2) Bethlehem was not located on a main highway. The Roman roads in that region bypassed the City of David and went directly to Jerusalem.**

**In all probability, this small village had no need for an inn.**





**We cannot fully appreciate the message of Luke unless we first understand the configuration of a Palestinian house.**







**Luke wanted his readers to hear something very special. He wanted his words to convey the notion that Jesus, the Son of God, was born, not off in the guest room, but right in the midst of smelly hay, snorting animals, anxious on-lookers, and the tenderness and love of the family circle.**



**If we experience the birth of  
Christ during Christmas, it will  
not be in the guest rooms of  
our lives, but right in the  
middle of it all.**







**That's where Christ is born,  
in the small, smelly, crowded  
cradles of our hearts.**



**He is Here,  
right in the middle of it all,  
in the messy manger of our lives,  
that is where Christ is born.**





**If Jesus was born like a peasant child, the event of his birth becomes something very positive and powerful. It means that Jesus is one of us. It means that God is present in the events and lives of ordinary people. It means God is with us.**





