No Room For Jesus
Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

Please open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke, chapter two. And let’s read verses 1-7.

Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

P R A Y E R
INTRODUCTION

The opening verses of Luke chapter two, provides us with a very clear picture of the conditions of the world at the time of Christ's birth.

In verse 1, Luke reveals that at the time Christ was born, the whole world was under the rule of one government.........the Roman Empire. And prophetically speaking, the Bible teaches us the whole world will be under the rule of one government when Christ comes back the second time.

Now, when we read these first three verses of Luke chapter two, this information about Caesar Augustus ..........and a world-wide census........and a Syrian Governor named Quirinius, means nothing to us. But actually Luke provided us with these details for a very important reason.

Eight hundred years before JESUS was even born, the prophet Micah had prophesied that Jesus would be born in the little Judaean town of Bethlehem.

In Micah 5:2,3 (NKJV) we read.......  

2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel.
Do you see now that the decree that was issued by Caesar Augustus was no coincidence? It was through Caesar's decree that GOD providentially moved Joseph and Mary into position so that Christ would be born at the right time in the right place just as Micah had prophesied 800 years earlier.

Now, probably everyone of us has the traditional view of how this whole scene played out that night in Bethlehem.

We imagine Joseph making the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem on foot while leading a donkey with a very pregnant Mary riding upon the donkey's back.

In our minds, we picture Joseph and Mary arriving in Bethlehem late in the evening on the very same night Jesus was born. We picture an anxious Joseph frantically knocking on the door of the Bethlehem Inn only to be turned away by a “grumpy old Inn Keeper” barking, “I have no rooms, now go away and leave me alone!” (grumpy voice)

After being rejected by the Inn Keeper, we picture Joseph rushing Mary to a smelly old stable out behind the inn that is filled with sheep and donkeys. And before Joseph can even get Mary “settled in” she goes into labor and gives birth to Jesus.

While this is our traditional view of how everything went down that night, the Bible provides us with some what of a different picture.
The 100 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was very difficult under normal circumstances, let alone for a young man and his pregnant wife. The journey likely took 5 to 6 days and would have taken Joseph and Mary over some of the worst used in those days.

History tells us the population of Bethlehem around the time of Christ’s birth was about 500-600 people; but because of the census registration the population had swelled to close to 2,000 people or about three to four times larger than normal.

But here is where tradition and the Biblical record differ. Rather than arriving in Bethlehem on the very same night Jesus was born as we have traditionally thought, it is very possible Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem quite some time prior to the birth of Christ. Look again at VERSE 6........

6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

Notice Luke says, “the days were completed.” It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Joseph and Mary had actually been in Bethlehem for quite a few days, perhaps even a few weeks prior to the birth of Jesus.

So how does this “mesh” with what Luke tells us in verse 7 about there being “No room in the inn.”
We are so “steeped” in our Christmas traditions that when we think of “an Inn” we picture a hotel or motel like structure like a Holiday Inn or a Motel 6, or something similar.

To understand what “an Inn” was in Jesus' time we need to clear our heads of those kinds of images. In all the ancient Roman world it is very doubtful there was a single inn nearly as nice as an average Hotel or Motel today.

There were basically two kinds of INNS in Jesus' day.

One was a structure called “a caravanserai”. Travel in Jesus' day was extremely difficult and very dangerous and so large groups of people would travel in caravans for protection. A “caravanserai” was a large inn consisting of a bunch of empty rooms, and when I say “empty” I mean empty. No bed, no bathroom, no nightstands, no cable TV......NOTHING! Just four walls, a dirt floor and a wooden ceiling. Everyone had to bring his or her own pallet or bed roll to put on the floor. The typical caravanserai was built in a square or rectangular shape with a large open-air stable in the middle behind all the rooms for the guests to board their animals over-night. Most Inn Keepers offered no amenities other than water and hay for the livestock. Other Inn Keepers did offer water and food to the guest. If you remember the Parable of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10 you remember the Samaritan took the beaten and robbed man to AN INN and paid the Innkeeper two denarii to provide the injured man physical provisions until he recovered. The term “Inn” in that parable refers to “a caravanserai.”
The other type of “Inn” in the New Testament was nothing at all like a hotel or motel or even a caravanserai. It is this type of INN that is referred to in VERSE 7 of our text. The word “INN” in verse 7 is actually translated “Guest Room.” Because caravanserai’s or larger Inns were few and far between, most Jewish people in those days welcomed travelers into their own homes. In fact many Jews built an “Inn” or “guest room” on the lower level of their homes and just outside the “Inn” or “guest room” there was some sort of stable or cave for the guests to board their animals during their stay.

You notice in verse 7 there is no mention whatsoever of “an Innkeeper.” So here is probably a more accurate picture of what happened.

Joseph and Mary made that 5-6 day, 100 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem a number of days before Jesus was born. Their intentions were to stay in “the inn” or “guest room” in the home of a family member or friend in town. But when they arrived in Bethlehem they found out “the guest room” had already been taken by other out-of-town relatives or friends who had returned to Bethlehem to register for the census. Because there was “no room in the INN or guest room,” Joseph and Mary had to take the only accommodations available and that was the “stable” or “cave” outside the “guest room” where the livestock were boarded.
Perhaps we have been so “blinded” by our Christmas “traditions” that we have failed to see that giving birth to Jesus in that stable or animal shelter was actually “a blessing in disguise.”

a. In a “practical sense” it was a blessing because that stable afforded Joseph and Mary complete privacy.

You ladies who have given birth to children know that when you are delivering a child “modesty” goes right out the window. You see, had there been room in the inn room in “the guest room” Mary would have had to endure her labor pains in a house full of other people. The stable was likely much larger and far more private than the inn or guest room.

b. In a “divine sense” it was a blessing because it was GOD'S WILL that Jesus be born in a stable and layed in a manger.

How do we know that? Think about it! Joseph was from the royal “blood line” of King David. God could have divinely arranged for Jesus to be born in a royal palace if He wanted to. And do you not think GOD could have divinely arranged the circumstances so there would have been “room in the inn” for Joseph and Mary if He wanted to? Of course He could have! **But Jesus was born in an animal stable and wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger or feeding trough, because that is exactly how GOD wanted it to be.**
You see, by being born in a stable Christ demonstrated **HIS HUMILITY**. Would it have been fitting for a man who was going to die naked on the cross to be robed in purple at His birth? Jesus was born in humility and He died in humility.

Also, by being born in a stable Jesus **IDENTIFIED WITH THE POOR AND LOWLY**. Had He been born in a palace or in finer accommodations, the poor and lowly of the world would have viewed Jesus as “unapproachable.” But by being born in a stable and laid in a manger, even the lowly shepherds felt comfortable to draw near to Him.

The fact that there was “**No room in the inn**” set the tone for Jesus whole life on earth.

* As Jesus grew older He discovered there was **NO ROOM FOR HIM IN THE HEARTS OF HIS OWN HOMETOWN PEOPLE OR EVEN IN THE HEARTS OF HIS OWN FAMILY.**

Matthew 13:57,58  (NKJV) But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house. Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

**THERE WAS “NO ROOM” FOR JESUS IN NAZARETH**
*In **MARK 5:16,17** we read where there was “**No room for Jesus in the HEARTS of the people of GADARA.**” After casting the demons out of the Gadarene demoniac into the herd of pigs, the pigs ran over the cliff and drowned in the Sea of Galilee. Word quickly spread about what had happened. **And Mark 5:17** tells us, the people of that region came to Jesus “and pleaded with Him to depart their region.” There was “**NO ROOM**” for Jesus in the hearts of the people of Gadara!

*Throughout the Gospels it is very obvious there was **NO ROOM FOR JESUS IN THE HEARTS OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THAT DAY.**

Think about that for a moment. Jesus was and is the **only begotten Son of God.** He was the most authoritative religious figure to ever set foot on this planet. And yet the Religious Leaders of His day never offered Jesus an invitation to attend their religious meetings or offer Him a position on the Sanhedrin. Jesus was “**a thorn-in-their-flesh”**.......a painful reminder of their gross hypocrisy.

**THERE WAS “NO ROOM” FOR JESUS IN THE HEARTS OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS.**

-In **MARK 10** we find there was “**No room for JESUS in the heart of the Rich Young Ruler.”** His heart was so crowded with love for material riches that he had “**no room” for Jesus.**
Basically, there was “No room for JESUS in the world” period!

John 1:10-12 (NKJV) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

CONCLUSION

When you stop and think about it there is no more room for JESUS in our world today than there was in His own day and time.

Brothers and sisters, let's not get so caught up in the materialism and commercialization of Christmas that we leave “No room for JESUS in our hearts.”

In fact, this is a good time for you and me to take stock of what truly matters most in our lives. Will you make room for JESUS this Christmas? And more importantly, will you make room for JESUS in your heart every day?