

FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Tale of Two Kings

Part 3: The Journey

(Based on Matthew 1:18-21)

A middle-aged man with a very young wife, heavy from her pregnancy, make their slow, laborious journey from the northern hills of Nazareth down along the eastern banks of the Jordan to Bethlehem. In all probability they don't travel with family or friends, for they are rejected by society, outcasts, ostracized for their moral fall. That is why, as noted in Luke Chapter 1, Mary spent most of her pregnancy with Elizabeth, away from the angry rebuff of society.

As they draw near Jerusalem, they can see the Royal City of David. The Temple Mount, in all its magnificence, has been built of white marble and covers four acres. Its outer walls rise sixty feet above the city with its smallest stone weighing 50 tons. Majestic towers of pure white rise above the walls reaching skyward for over one hundred feet. On the front of the Holy Temple is the Royal Porch, with its awesome pillars of flawless marble. Beside the Temple is the stunning palace of the high priest, Ananias. A majestic suspended bridge hangs high above the court and allows the high priest access to the temple from his palace. His elaborate palace is surrounded by the houses of the wealthy and the aristocrats.

While a million times a million angels ring the earth in preparation for the birth, ready to burst into song, the sounds of revelry break the quiet of the night. Satan is preparing his welcome for the baby king. As the couple slowly moves past the royal city on their way to Bethlehem, the palace of the priest is ablaze with lights. Richly gowned figures can be seen strolling on the balconies and strains of the harp waft across the still night air.

The couple are happy to finally leave the noisy, festive atmosphere of the Royal City and pass through the chaste beauty and quiet of the Valley of Bread, south of Jerusalem. They recall the stories of old, for here are the fields of Boaz and of David, son of Jesse. Mary, now painfully heavy with child, labours up the terraced hills on the road leading to Bethlehem. She feels the first ominous pangs and has a premonition that the time is here.

In her young womb she carries the King of Kings; the universe is not big enough to hold Him, for He is the creator of all life. He, who is sovereign, omnipresent, omnipotent, ever present, ever-powerful ruler of heaven and earth, strains to break the fetters of the womb.

John 1:9 *There was the true light, even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world knew Him not.*

Next week: Part 4: The Inn

Blessings, Ken Crawford

