God's Purpose in History and the Heart

Introduction: Luke, Investigative Journalist.
A lost art: faithful objectivity.

1) Large Events and Fine Detail: Luke 2:1-7
   Obedience "The LORD does not look at the things people look at."

2) Grand Angels and Humble Shepherds: vv8-14
   Humility "People look at the outward appearance…"

3) Outward Impact and Inward Thoughts: vv15-19
   Honesty "…but the LORD looks at the heart."

To recall history is less important than to receive Christ in the heart

“No room in the Inn.” (Luke 2:7)

What does it mean?

Q: Translate **publicly** (inn) or **privately** (lodging)?

PUBLICLY (KJV): Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because ***there was no room for them in the inn.***

OR?

PRIVATELY (NIV): **Luke 2:7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because ***there was no guest room available for them.***

WHAT DOES THE ORIGINAL GREEK SAY?

"…there was no space (topos) in the untying place (kataluma)." You untie animals, cargo and clothes, so kataluma = any lodging place.

Inn and *Guest Room* may be too grand, as we are projecting modern ideas onto 1st Century realities.

ACCORDING TO MY ISRAELI GUIDE, THERE WERE FOUR ASPECTS TO VILLAGE HOMES THEN, STARTING FROM THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

1. **THE DOOR, WHERE THE HOUSEHOLDER SLEPT.**
2. **THE LIVING AREA, ONE ROOM WHERE EVERYONE SLEPT.**
3. **THE OVEN, WHERE BREAD WAS MADE DAILY.**
4. **THE STABLE, WHERE THE ANIMALS WERE KEPT.**

THE ORIGINAL HOUSE WAS A CAVE, OFTEN WITH A BUILT-ON FRONT:

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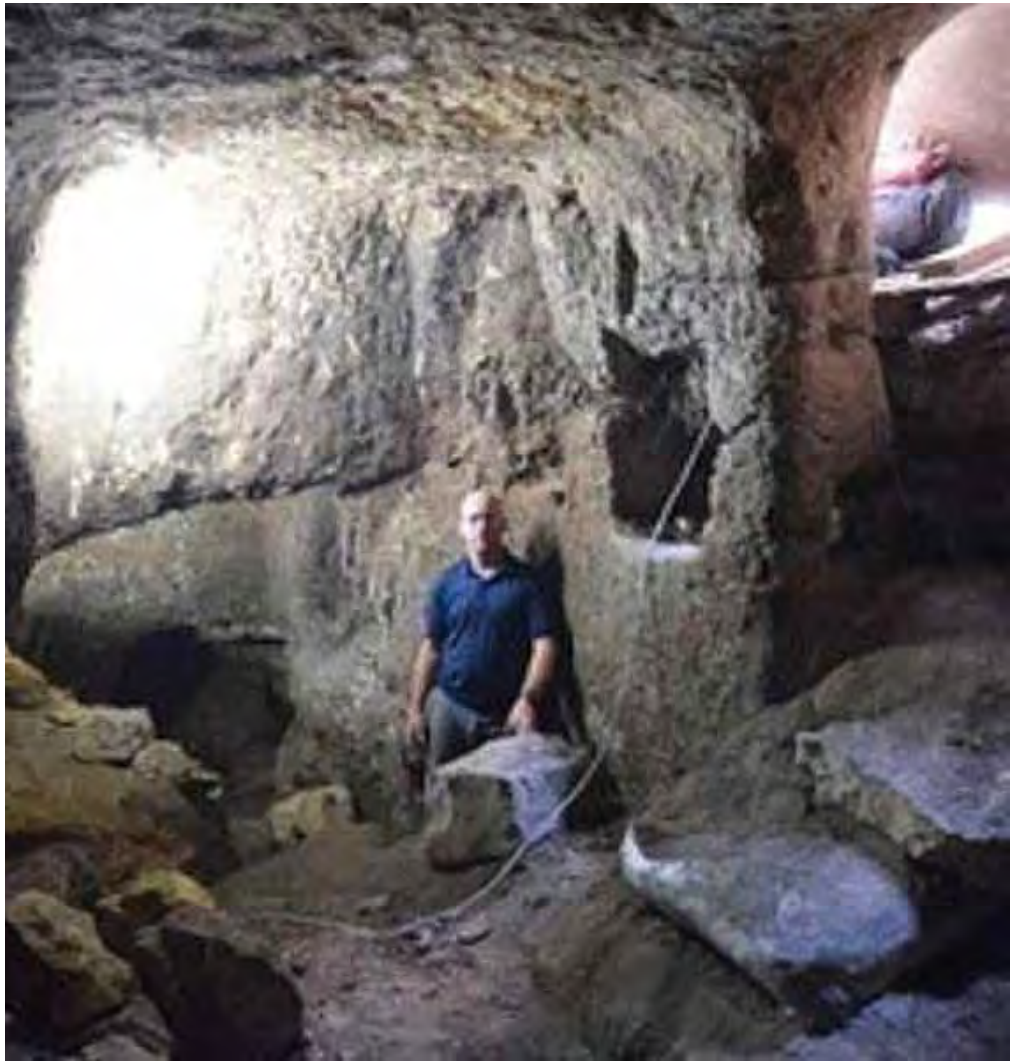
MARY AND JOSEPH PROBABLY STAYED WITH RELATIVES. THE HOUSE WAS FULL AND MARY NEEDED PRIVACY; SO SHE WAS AT THE BACK.

A View from *the door* at the *living area*, *oven* and *back of the cave,* where the animals were.



FOR SALE: an upmarket cave with two rooms.

No-one can be certain of the house and stable in Bethlehem and yet it was quite normal to live in the same building or cave with the animals, which came in by the same door. It was similar in the Western Isles. In Israel, people often lived in the front of the house, the animals at the back and Dad slept, like a guard, right behind the front door.



DOOR, LIVING-ROOM and OVEN: *A STORY.*

“Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, *'Friend, lend me three* ***loaves of bread;*** *a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'* And suppose the one inside answers, **'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.’”** (Luke 11:5-7)

HE DOESN’T WANT TO STEP OVER HIS CHILDREN.

A View from the door *to the oven* shows that the father would have had to step between children.

