

Luke 2:1-7

FLURRY OF WORLD'S ACTIVITY

STORY much less serene than we think

CHRISTMAS EVE

How's IT GOING for you?  
organized?  
healthy?  
unstressed?

December 24, 2022

Luke 2:1-3 - <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

MANDATORY ROMAN REGISTRATION FOR TAXATION PURPOSES

GRASPING FOR GLORY WITH WORLD PROGRESS

- BIG PICTURE - WORLD
- SMALL PICTURE - US (COMFORT, APPRAVAL, SECURITY)

WE GET CAUGHT UP (GOOD + BAD)

Luke 2:4-5 - <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

JOSEPH TRAVEL IN NAZARETH, HAD TO RETURN TO HIS HOMETOWN OVER 50 MILES WITH PREGNANT MARY

The cause of the... increase in nervous disease is increased demand made by the conditions of modern life upon the brain. Everything is done in a hurry. We talk across a continent, telegraph across an ocean, take a trip to Chicago for an hour's talk... We take even our pleasures sadly and make a task of our play... What wonder if the pressure is almost more than our nerves can bear.  
G. Shrady, "Are Nervous Diseases Increasing?", Medical Record, 1896

TRY AS WE MAY, THE PACE OF LIFE TOUCHES US  
OUR SMARTER  
OUR PHONE SCREEN  
OUR HOPES + DREAMS

With the advent of cheap newspapers and superior means of locomotion... the dreamy, quiet old days are over... For men now live, think, and work at express speed. They have their Mercury or Post laid on their breakfast table in the early morning, and if they are too hurried to snatch from it the news during that meal, they carry it off, to be sulkily read as they travel... leaving them no time to talk with the friend who may share the compartment with them... The hurry and bustle of modern life... lacks the quiet and repose of the period when our forefathers, the day's work done, took their ease...  
William Smith, *Morley: Ancient And Modern*, 1886

SOME GOOD  
LAW, WORK

SOME BAD  
TOO MUCH, TOO FULL  
DISTRACTED

IS THIS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS?

GLORIOUSLY SIDETRACKED

Luke 2:6-7 - <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she 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.

JESUS ARRIVED AT UNOCCUPIED TIME

JESUS ARRIVED AT UNKNOWN PLACE

ADVENT COMES WHETHER WE ARE READY OR NOT

Colossians 1:15-20 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Angels and Arc Angels  
May have traveled there  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
Thronged the air  
But only his Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshiped the beloved  
With a kiss

DEITY + HUMANITY  
TANGLED UP TO  
CONFRONT OUR  
TIDY MINDS

ABOUT ALL BATTLE,  
ABOUT ALL WORKING OF RULERS  
ABOUT ALL PLOTS FOR GODDUAL  
ABOUT ALL GRASPING FOR GLORY  
JESUS INTERRUPTS IN  
THE MOST UNLIKELY WAY

BE SIDETRACKED  
BY HIM TONIGHT

NOT JUST THE TRADITION  
BUT THE SAVIOR