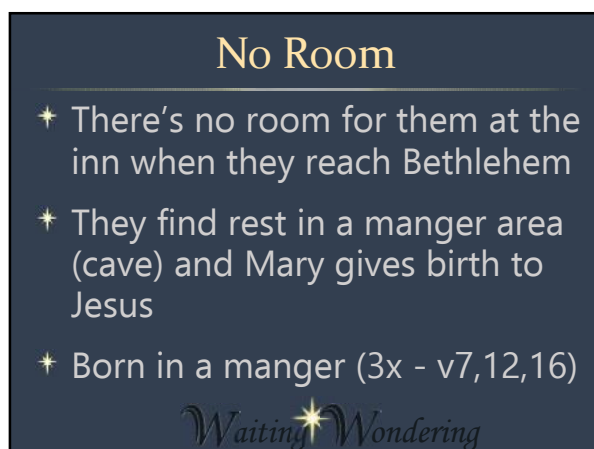
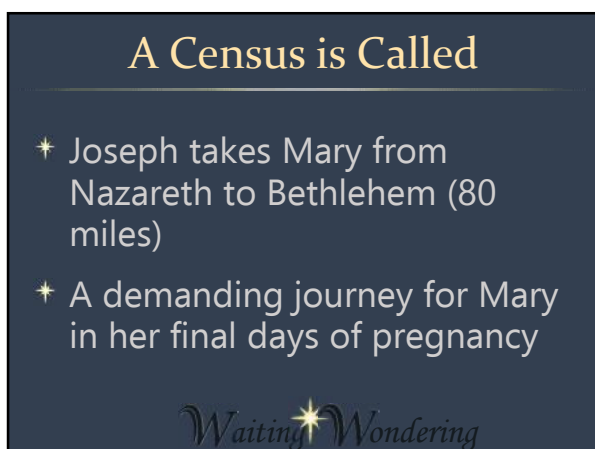
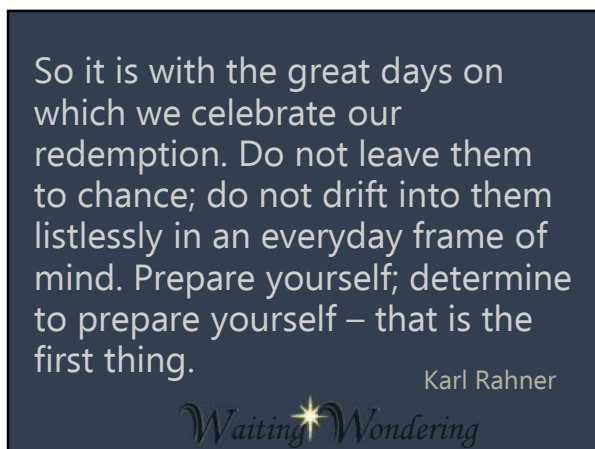


The great experiences of life are of course one's destiny, a gift of God and of his grace, but they nevertheless mostly only fall to the lot of those who are prepared to receive them. For the sublime hours of wisdom, art, and love, we must prepare ourselves wholly with soul and body.

Waiting  *Wondering*



A lonely Experience for Mary

- * She wraps the child
- * Jesus' identification with the poor, marginalized
- * Born in a stable/ not a palace

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

II. The Angel's Proclamation

Luke 2:8-12

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

To the Shepherds

- * The shepherds are terrified and the angel calms them – "Do not be afraid"
- * Indeed the angel announces 'good news' of 'great joy' for all the people (v9) – this is happy news not fearful news

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

This Day a Child is Born

- * Today – a Kairos event
- * Three titles for the child – Saviour, Messiah, Lord
- * Good new 'for all people'

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not min. Things will never look just right or feel just right. If they did, someone would be lying. ... But it is into this broken world that a child is born who is called Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, Saviour.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

III. The Exultation of the Angel Choir

Luke 2:13-14

Waiting ✨ *Wondering*

An Army of Angels Sing

- i. Glory to God (v14)
- ii. Peace to humankind – an army sings of peace!

Waiting ✨ Wondering

The Message

- ✦ A message to make sense in a hopeless world
- ✦ Adam tied a knot for humanity – Jesus unties the knot
- ✦ Jesus brings salvation and ushers in a new age of hope

Waiting ✨ Wondering

IV. The Participation of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Waiting ✨ Wondering

They 'Go to See'

- ✦ Having received the angel's message the shepherds go to see what has happened (v15)
- ✦ They make a choice – a brave and risky choice to leave the flock and go

Waiting ✨ Wondering

The Shepherds' Response

Similar to the magi the shepherds demonstrate:

- i. Awareness – tune into the angel
- ii. Receptivity – respond positively to the message
- iii. Intentionality – go to find the child

Waiting ✨ Wondering

Praising God

- ✦ The shepherds go and return praising God (v20) – demonstrating an open heart of faith
- ✦ They open up and say 'yes' to Jesus

Waiting ✨ Wondering

- * Others benefit from the shepherd's message and participation (v18) - including Mary who treasures their words (v19)

Waiting ✨ Wondering

The Shepherds' Model of Faith

- Watch** – over their flock – we also watch over others & ourselves
- Risk** – they take the risk of faith - they walk in faith amidst life's challenges
- Act** – not passive or apathetic – they exhibit a zealous enthusiasm for God

Waiting ✨ Wondering