

The Arrival of Royalty

Philip Yancey, in his book *The Jesus I Never Knew*, tells about attending a performance at a theater in London several years ago.

“Looking toward the auditorium’s royal box where the queen and her family sat, I caught glimpses of the way rulers stride through the world: with bodyguards, a trumpet fanfare, and a flourish of bright clothes and flashing jewelry.”

Queen Elizabeth II had recently visited the United States, he said, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her 4,000 pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, 40 pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers.

She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost \$20 million, Yancey estimated.

By contrast, God’s visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn King but a feed trough.

“Indeed, the event that divided history, and even our calendars, into two parts may have had more animal than human witnesses,” Yancey wrote. “A mule could have stepped on Him.”

Imagine, the Prince of Heaven who created the world and all that is in it with His Father, humbly came to a stable to begin His earthly ministry. His announcement was not made to royalty or to government authorities. Nay. Angels appeared in the sky over Bethlehem to deliver the news to shepherds.

Later, kings did arrive to pay Him homage.



But His message of love and salvation was to all peoples of all races and economic station in life. And that makes Christmas a time for great celebration.

And she (Mary) brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter