**R987 Rumination for 24th December, 2023.** by K.C. Ung

The **T**heme: ***It was Night***

The **T**ext: *He then having received the sop went immediately out: and* ***it was night*.** Jn. 13: 30

The **T**hots:

1. **It was the Night when the Shepherds Watched their Sheep. Lk. 2:8**

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock* ***by night.***

1. The Night the Glory of the Lord **S**hone around the **S**hepherds. Lk. 2:9-12
*Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them*
2. The Night the **S**hepherds Watched their **S**heep. Lk. 2:8

*And there were in the same country* ***S****hepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And they were* ***S****ore afraid.* Lk. 2:9b

1. The Night *the angel* ***S****aid unto them…* Lk. 2:10
2. ***F****ear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all*
3. ***F****or unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*
4. *And this shall be a* ***S****ign unto you;*
5. *Ye shall find the babe wrapped in* ***S****waddling clothes, lying in a manger.* Lk. 2:12
6. The Night the Angels **S**ang.Lk. 2:13-14
*And* ***S****uddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God*

*and* ***S****aying,* ***Glory to God in the highest,*** *and on earth peace, good will toward men*

1. **The Night we shall join to Sing…**

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.*

*"Fear not," said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.*

*"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:*

*"The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid."*

*Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:*

*“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests goodwill shall never cease."* Psalter, Hymnal 1897

1. **It was the Night when the Wise Sages visited our Saviour. Matt. 2:1-2**

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews?*

*for we have seen His Star in the east, and are come to worship Him.*

* + 1. It was a **S**tar in the Night **S**ky that led them to the **S**aviour.
1. *for we have seen His Star in the east, and are come to worship Him.* Mt. 2:2b
2. *The Star, which they Saw in the east, went before them, till it came and Stood over where*

*the young Child was.*

* + 1. They could have **S**earched the **S**criptures earlier to know the Child as the King of the Jews. Mt. 2:2

*Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His Star in the east,*

*and are come to worship Him*.

Cf. *there shall come a* ***S****tar out of Jacob, and a* ***S****ceptre shall rise out of Israel.* Num. 24:17

* + 1. Note: When they **S**aw **M**ary, His **M**other, they did not Worship her though He was in her arms – 2:11
	1. *When…they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him:*
1. *When they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*
	* 1. They came with a **S**tated purpose – to Worship Him. Mt. 2:2

*Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have Seen His Star in the east,*

*and are come* *to worship Him.* See also #3 above

1. **It was the Night when the Young Child Fled**. **Mt. 2**:**13, 14**
2. Joseph had a dream at Night and was **C**autioned: Matt. 2:13KJV)

*Behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him*.

1. *When he arose, he took the young* ***C****hild and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt*. Mt. 2:14
2. Thus, the **C**hild Escaped the Massacre of the Infants: Mt. 2:16

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men…slew all the children*

 *that were in Bethlehem…from two years old and under…*

*A ruler once came to Jesus* ***by night*** *To ask Him the way of salvation and light;*

 *The Master made answer in words true and plain, Ye must be born again.* W. T. Sleeper

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 987**

1. The “night” in scripture saw many events happening. Some were good, meaningful and memorable; others troublesome, tragic and treacherous. Here are a couple of memorable events that happened at night and must not be forgotten, viz.

**When Nicodemus went to Jesus at night** *to seek the way of salvation and light* for fear of taunting from his fellow synagogue “rulers” who were all out to trap and capture Jesus.

*There was a man of the Pharisees, named ﻿Nicodemus, ﻿a ruler of the Jews:*

*The same came to Jesus ﻿****by night***Jn. 3:1, 2

*A ruler once came to Jesus by night*

*To ask Him the way of salvation and light;*

*The Master made answer in words true and plain,*

*Ye must be born again.*

Refrain

*Ye must be born again, Ye must be born again,*

*I verily, verily, say unto thee,*

 *Ye must be born again.* William T. Sleeper

As the world celebrates X-mas (Christ-less and Cross-less) with merry making and singing carols of Santa Claus with his reindeer riding in the snow supposedly bringing and distributing to children gifts and greetings of Merry Making tonight in anticipation of tomorrow, many Christians, regrettably forgetting the Reason for the Season, also join in the fun and frolic without paying a thought to spread the good news that over two millennia ago Jesus came, was born in very poor circumstances, to fulfil His divine mission to be Man’s Substitute for the Sins that he commits to be the Saviour of the world. Thus, He spoke to Nicodemus…

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man ﻿be born ﻿﻿again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto Him, ﻿How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of ﻿﻿water and of ﻿the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 ﻿That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 ﻿Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born ﻿again. 8 ﻿The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit –* Jn. 3:3-7.

Will you be spending tomorrow telling your relatives and friends this good news of how to be born again as you propagate the Reason for the Season at this Christmas time? R**EFLECT**

1. The Night scene could also depict a tragic scene as we can see in the two cases below:
2. Judas Iscariot was enjoying a meal with Jesus and His disciples. He was telling them of His coming betrayal and how one of them would turn traitor to His cause – the one to whom He would give the sop. *When Jesus had ﻿thus said, He ﻿was troubled in spirit, and ﻿testified, and said, ﻿Verily, verily,* *I say unto you, that ﻿one of you shall betray Me And when He had ﻿dipped the sop, ﻿He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon… He then having received the sop went immediately out:* ***and it was night.*** Jn. 13: 21-30

It was indeed night in the life of Judas Iscariot as he went out to do his dirty work!

1. The subsequent scene as described below again happened **at night**… Jn. 18:3-9

*﻿Judas then, having received a ﻿band of men and ﻿officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and ﻿torches and weapons. 4 Jesus…said unto them, ﻿Whom seek ye? 5 They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them,* ***I am*** *He. And Judas also, which betrayed Him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as He had said unto them,* ***I am*** *He, they went backward, and fell to the ground. 7 Then asked He them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that* ***I am*** *He: if therefore ye seek Me, let these go their way…*

It indeed was ***night*** that night as they who were there refused the Light of Life.

Tonight is Christmas Eve. Are you preparing to celebrate CHRISTmas or X-mas?

 **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:**  *Will you be* ***C****elebrating a* ***M****eaningful* ***CHRIST****mas or A* ***M****erry* ***X****mas?*