

Merry Christmas

The Jackson County Journal

ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE IN THE COUNTY

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ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OUTSIDE THE COUNTY



Come Ye To Bethlehem

By Dan Tompkins

Christmas 1936

Two thousand years ago the pagan power of Rome ruled the world. The light of Greek philosophy had begun to be trampled out beneath the feet of marching legionnaires. Pomp and pretense prevailed about the Imperial throne, and the petty thrones throughout the world. Such religion as the Romans had was but a pretense, in which nobody, not even the priests, believed, and which nobody had courage to discard.

Wickedness, power, luxury, indulgence, selfishness, were the order of the day. Human rights were overlooked, and human life was cheaper than the waters of the Tiber.

The faithful few of the remnant of Judah still ardently prayed for the coming of the Messiah, but they faltered in their prayers.

Then came One who was to change the whole course of human life and of human thinking.

He came not in the palace of a king; but the King came.

An humble child, to an humble woman, in an humble stable of an humble village was born while princes and potentates, unaware of His coming, indulged themselves in drunken revels. But angels announced His coming in the sweetest music ever heard by mortal ears, to humble shepherds on the Judean hills, and wise men, following the star of Judah, came to bow before His manger-cradle, and to bring Him their rich gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

That Child came to establish a kingdom, not in imperial Rome, nor yet upon Mount Zion, not a kingdom of force, but a kingdom of love in the hearts of men—the most powerful kingdom that the world has ever known. The greatness of that kingdom rests upon its simplicity. Not the wise of the world, nor yet the pompous are its princes, but the humble and the loving.

If we would be a part of it and share its greatness, let us, too, journey to the manger and bow ourselves before a Little Child, that we may learn of His the secrets of humility, of self-abnegation, of service to our fellows, all based upon simple love and simple trust.

Thus, and only thus, can we learn to be truly great.