A Diamond, a Clay Vessel, a Rolls Royce, a Crude Wagon Pulled by Oxen and the Bethlehem Event

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Recommended Citation
Willmington, Harold, "A Diamond, a Clay Vessel, a Rolls Royce, a Crude Wagon Pulled by Oxen and the Bethlehem Event" (2019). Dr. Willmington's Personal Observations of the Bible. 29.
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What really happened during that night of all nights in the Judean hills some 2,000 years ago?

Two illustrations may prove helpful:

- **The diamond/clay vessel illustration:**

  A perfect, priceless, and incredibly beautiful diamond is placed within a plain and lowly clay vessel. One day, for a brief moment, a tiny hole appears in the container, resulting in the immediate outpouring of a dazzling beam of glory which temporarily blinds those who happen to see it. This is, of course, exactly what happened in Luke 2 (Christ’s birth) and Matthew 17 (His transfiguration).

  **Note:**

  1. The placing of the diamond:

     “God was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16).

     “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same (Heb. 2:14).

  2. The appearing of the hole:

     “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light (Mt. 17:1, 2).

     A case could be made that, in all the universe, the strongest object ever created by God was the earthly body of Jesus! Ponder this amazing thought: for 34 years this vessel of clay actually contained and confined the resplendent glory of Almighty God Himself, only allowing for one brief moment a tiny ray to escape, which temporarily blinded Peter, James and John!

- **The Rolls Royce/ox wagon illustration:**

  The owner of a $250,000 Rolls Royce ‘Gray Ghost’ automobile is suddenly and mysteriously transported in ‘twilight zone’ fashion to Earth’s most remote area where the residents are still in the Stone Age. After recovering from the initial shock, the man notices their only means of transportation involves the hitching of oxen to crude wooden carts or wagons. Sitting in his Rolls, surrounded by luxury, the owner soon realizes there are two courses of action open to him:
1. He can place the auto in gear and, using its awesome power, literally leave those simple natives in the dust.

2. He can keep the motor running, ease the auto in neutral, and allow his magnificent machine to be pulled by a lowly oxen.

After some thought, the second option is decided upon. But why? For some reason, he feels a strong desire to know these people. He wants to travel at their pace, learn their language, experience their pain, and to befriend as many as possible! This is exactly what Jesus did when He came to our God-rejecting planet, carrying with Him all the glorious attributes of His Divine nature. He then clothed Himself in human flesh, agreeing to eat our food, drink our water, speak our language, and die for our sins!