



..... *I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people*
(Luke 2:10 KJV).

Greetings dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, all my people!

Last week, Kelly Clarkson asked her audience if they had a favorite Christmas hymn. Friday I woke at 3:30 singing all three verses of the treasured 16th century Latin hymn, "Adeste' Fideles," from memory, my favorite hymn ever! I have sung in church choirs since sixth grade, and I felt the Holy Spirit once more had given me my Hug theme from this refrain, and the key word: **COME**. "*Oh come let us adore Him!*" Now, pardon my teacher brain, folks, but here is what my next two days of researching and puzzling taught me, much of which I had never known, and why the Hug gives me such personal reward.

The story of the Birth of Christ is found in all four Gospels, but only two offer narratives regarding the birth: Matt. 1:18~25, and Luke 2:1~7.

I chose Luke, the King James Version, from my worn, 48-year old family Bible, given us by my precious, Norwegian Uncle Johnny. Then I chased Webster, and found the word "come" had an amazing 48 definitions! I printed them from *Wikipedia*, and will share now, **how the very first 9 line up precisely with the Holy Scriptures, the old, old story of the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ and his good news.** {First of all, the word "come" is an action verb and the past tense is "came".} Something has to happen; it begs a result. Something did, and it's all Good News.

Definition {1} **to approach, move towards something.** Luke 2:1~3: And it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed...And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Definition {2} **to move or journey to vicinity with a specified purpose.** Luke 2:4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

Definition {3} **to arrive in due course.** Luke 2:5: To be taxed *with Mary*.....

Definition {4} **to reach a condition or conclusion.** Luke 2:5: To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, *being great with child.*

Definition {5} **to advance toward accomplishment.** Luke 2:6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Definition {6} **to arrive at a particular place, end, result or conclusion.** Luke 2: 7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room in the inn.

Definition {7} **to appear on a scene, make an appearance.** Luke 2:8~9: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Definition {8} **to come to pass, take place.** Luke 2:10~11: And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Definition {9} **to fall to a person as an inheritance.** Luke 2: 12~14: And this *shall be* a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. {Amazing to me, this structure? Not at all.} We **bow this season of Advent, having inherited this fine, precious fortune.** "*Oh come let us adore Him!*"

Yours, JOYfully, ☺ Pat Reck