



Birthplace of the King

Luke 2:1-7

Scripture Guy opened the door to his secret lab and stepped inside. Kingdom Crusader looked up from her crossword puzzle. "Hi, Scripture Guy! What do you have there?"

"Hi, Kingdom Crusader," Scripture Guy closed the door and set a brightly wrapped Christmas gift on the table. "I got this nifty gift for The Philistine. You haven't seen him, have you?"

Kingdom Crusader shook her head. "He's gone. He went back home to Godly Acres."

Scripture Guy's eyebrows went up. "He did? But he was so helpful to us here in King City. I'm going to miss that big lug."

"Yeah, me too," Kingdom Crusader agreed. "He ran this great ad in the paper, and he spread the good news about Jesus. He even visited the Obliterator in prison. But then he said it was time to go home and reunite with Aunt Till...I mean, his wife, Tillie and get back to his hometown."

"Well, I can understand that. It's good to remember our hometown and our family because God chose all of those things for us." Scripture Guy paused and thought for a moment. "God did that for His own Son, too. You know, God could have chosen any place for the King to be born, but he chose the least likely place." He sat down across the work table from her and reached for the Bible.

"You mean the manger?" Kingdom Crusader asked.

Scripture Guy nodded. He flipped through the pages to find Luke, chapter two. "Yes, the manger, but I also meant Bethlehem. Bethlehem wasn't a big, important, capital city. It was just a tiny, little town."

"So, why did they go there?" she wondered aloud.

"Well, the Emperor Caesar Augustus had order a census - that's when all the people have to go back to their home town to be counted, and Joseph's family was from Bethlehem." He looked down at the Bible and read, "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David."

"So, it was the Emperor that chose the place," Kingdom Crusader pointed out.

"Oh no," Scripture Guy corrected. "It was God's plan all along that Jesus be born in that humble place."

Kingdom Crusader stood up and walked across the room. "But why? Jesus is the King of heaven! He should have been born in the most glorious palace in the biggest city in all of Israel!"

"If he were born in a palace, there would be gates and guards to keep the common people out. You would have to get special permission just to see the King," Scripture Guy argued. "Jesus was born in a place where anyone who wanted to was free to visit him. God sent Jesus to save all people not just a special few."

"I get it," Kingdom Crusader stated. A grin spread across her face. "The manger in Bethlehem is like a picture that shows us that anyone can come to Jesus."

Scripture Guy nodded. "God's kingdom is open to everyone. There's no secret way to enter. You just come through Jesus."

"Amen!" Kingdom Crusader agreed. She walked slowly back across the room and sat down in her chair. After fidgeting for a few minutes, she spoke up hesitantly. "Speaking of secrets, there's been something I have wanted to tell you." She paused. "I'm Kasey Carter," she finished with a rush.

Scripture Guy shrugged. "I know."

Kingdom Crusader kept talking. "I just thought Super Heroes needed to have a secret identity and then after a while I didn't know how to tell you and I..." her head jerked up and she stared at her crime-fighting partner. "Wait a minute. You knew?"

"Of course, you only slipped and gave it away about a million times." Scripture Guy looked straight at her. "And now, I have a secret for you."

Kingdom Crusader was now the one to shrug. "You mean that you're Scoop Gibson?"

"Yes, how'd you know?" Scripture Guy exclaimed.

Kingdom Crusader laughed. "Well, I am a reporter. And I learned from the best!"

Scripture Guy shook his head. "Thanks, kid. Well, there you have it, The Redeem Team is open and honest, no more secrets between us."

"I know one thing that's never been a secret," Kingdom Crusader said, "our motto! With huge grins, they exclaimed together, "We give everything to honor our King!"