

## **Reflection on the Bethlehem Candle: Jesus - King of the Jews and King of the Universe**

### **Introduction**

Today's Advent Candle symbolizes Peace, Faith, and Love to many Christians. It's often called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the City of David and that He is the King of the Jews whose first bed was an animal feeding trough. It seems a very odd beginning for the Son of God, not kingly at all, and even emphatically ordinary. But then Jesus is both 100% God and 100% human, so He is unique. As God He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and as a descendant of David He is the true King of Israel, the King of the Jews. But there were other kings at the time.

### **1) Jesus: True King of the Jews**

Jesus vs Herod and Augustus

### **2) Bethlehem: House of Bread and Jesus: Bread of Life**

Bread symbolism ties together Bethlehem, meaning House of Bread, and Jesus as the Bread of Life in John 6.

### **3) Jesus was Born in Bethlehem to Reconcile Sinful Humanity with Holy Trinity**

Jesus is a real human being who succeeded where Adam failed. Jesus was tempted but perfect (Matt. 4:1-3 and Hebrews 2:14-18), thus winning our salvation by being both Perfect High Priest and Perfect Sacrifice.

### **4) Jesus was Born in Bethlehem So We Could Enjoy God Forever**

Enjoying God forever is symbolized by our joining in the divine Song, Symphony, and Dance that the members of the Trinity already enjoy among themselves.

### **Conclusion:**

Words can evoke faithful responses when the heart is warmed by the Holy Spirit to receive them. But words fall on deaf ears when we shut out the possibility of hearing from God. The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is exciting only if we are truly open to the possibility of God actually intervening in our world and in our lives because He loves us. May the Spirit of God give us ears to hear and eyes to see our hope and destiny in Christ, the true King of the Jews and the only King of the Universe.