

## ROMAN NATIVITY SCENE ROEMISCHE KRIPPE



A contradiction - the simple, primitive, dirty stall in Juda in comparison to the monumental, imperial architecture of Rome?

It was the Roman emperor Augustus, who through his census, forced Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem. By so doing he helped fulfill God's word:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5, 1

The child, together with his parents, appears to be lost amidst the decaying remains of the Roman Empire. Yet it is he who grants new life amidst the ruins. True eternal life that comes from God. That is the Good News - the joyful message of this child, the Son of God, the redeemer, the saviour!

This nativity scene also serves as a reminder of the mighty temple in Jerusalem, where the baby Jesus and old Simeon met. It is out of Simeon's mouth that we hear the words for this nativity scene:

**... For my eyes have seen your salvation ...**

Luke 2, 30

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