

The Beauty of Bethlehem

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Text: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

'Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity.' Micah 5:2

Introduction:

God specializes in doing big things in little places.

God is at work throughout generations.

God cares deeply for people and gives them hope.

1. Bethlehem is beautiful because of its background.

- a. The place familiar to the patriarchs.

'So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).' Genesis 35:19

- b. The setting of the story of Ruth.

'The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and [the local women] exclaimed, 'Can this be Naomi?' Ruth 1:19

- c. The birthplace of David.

'One of the young men answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play [the harp]. He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and the LORD is with him.' 1 Samuel 16:18

- d. A place where God's people returned from exile.

'Bethlehem's people . . . 123.' Ezra 2:21

2. Bethlehem is beautiful because of its name.

- a. House of bread.
b. Jesus is the bread of life.

'I am the bread of life,' Jesus told them. 'No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again.' John 6:35

3. Bethlehem is beautiful because of the birth of Jesus.

- a. This rather obscure place was identified as the exact location where Christ would be born.
b. The prophecy spoke of his destiny and eternity.

4. Bethlehem is beautiful because of the blessings.

- a. It is a reminder.
i. That God always has a plan.
ii. That God always has a purpose.
iii. That sometimes we go through pain.
b. It is a reason to rejoice.
i. The Savior was born.
ii. The Shepherds were informed.
iii. The Wise Men sought Him!
1. Brought gold – He is king!
2. Brought frankincense – He is our great High Priest!
3. Brought myrrh – He is our redeemer!

'I have asked one thing from the LORD; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the LORD and seeking Him in His temple.' Psalm 27:4