



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | [DiscipleshipDevelopment.org](http://DiscipleshipDevelopment.org)

**God moved the Roman Empire to accomplish His will.**

Joseph and Mary lived in the town of Nazareth, 90 miles from Jerusalem. God used the Roman Emperor to decree a census so that Christ would be born in Bethlehem at just the right place and time. (Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2) Over the next few days the world would witness and experience the greatest miracle of all time... God becoming man and intersecting humanity's condition with HOPE!

John 1:1-5, 14 ...*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*

**TEXT |** Luke 2:1-20 ...*Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid... For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger...*

1. **THE REALITY |** Tradition has rewritten the manger scene and depicted it as something very different than historical fact.
  - Who were these shepherds, and why were they so important as to have a host of Angels declare to them the birth of Christ? Where was the location of the “manger scene” prophesied? And how did they know exactly where to find this Baby?
  - God used the manner of the birth of His Son as a prophetic statement, declaring that the coming Messiah would, Himself, be the *Lamb of God destined for sacrifice!* (John 1:29, 3:16; Revelation 5:11, 13:8)
2. **THE INN |** When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, God *did not* forget to “reserve” for them a place to stay! By closing the inn, God was leading them to the *exact location* He had chosen for the birth of His Son: the prophesied “Tower of the Flock.”
3. **THE TOWER |** Historical facts reveal that Jesus was *not* born behind an inn, in an unsanitary stable where the donkeys of travelers and other animals were kept. Instead, He was born in a Divinely appointed location which fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, the “Tower of the Flock,” just outside Bethlehem.

- The Tower of the Flock, (Migdal Eder in Hebrew), was first mentioned in Genesis 35:21, in connection with the death of Rachel, Jacob’s wife. It was also a military watchtower to view the valley near what was later to become Bethlehem. (Photo is a restoration of what the tower would have looked like)



*Genesis 35:19-21 19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem). Jacob set a pillar (monument) on her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day. Then Israel (Jacob) journeyed on and pitched his tent on the other side of the tower of Eder, the lookout point used by shepherds.*

- Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Micah foretold it to be the birthplace of the Messiah.

*Micah 4:8 And you, O tower of the flock (Migdal Eder), the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the Kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.*

- From David and Solomon’s day, until the time of Jesus’ birth, it became the Tower of the Flock. It was there where the sacrificial lambs were prepared. The priests examined the newborn lambs, cleaned and wrapped them in cloths from priestly garments stained with blood. These lambs were designated for sacrifice, for the sins of the people, at the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The Tower of the Flock was also the location where David grew up watching his father’s sheep.

4. **THE SHEPHERDS** | The shepherds were an elite group from the priestly tribe of Levi and specifically trained to watch over temple sheep. Their responsibility included the care of lambs that were born for temple sacrifices in Jerusalem. These lambs were to be without blemishes or injuries. (Exodus 12:5) Therefore, when the angel declared the message, they knew *exactly* where to look: the Tower of the Flock, the birthing place for sacrificial lambs that would be wrapped in swaddling cloths made from the priestly garments still stained with blood.

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*When Jesus is called the Lamb of God in John 1:29 and John 1:36, the Bible is referring to Him as the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for humanity’s Sin.*

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5. **FULFILLMENT** | This is a glorious example of God’s pre-planning and exact timing so that His Word would be fulfilled! From the very beginning God used every circumstance to point to His Son as the true Sacrifice Lamb for our sins! (John 1:35-36)
  - A. Christ was born *in the very place* where tens of thousands of lambs had foreshadowed Him as the “Lamb of God!” (The tower was a place that had to meet strict Levitical regulations and was therefore clean.)

- B. The Old Testament Passover Lamb, a reality in that time, was actually a foreshadowing of the Perfect and final Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. Through His sinless life and His sacrificial death, Jesus became the only One capable of giving people a way to escape death and a sure hope of eternal life (1 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 9-10).

*For more information, read "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah,"  
by Alfred Edersheim (Ch. 6, "From the Manger in Bethlehem...")  
Also [CreationEvidence.org](http://CreationEvidence.org)*

## 6. APPLICATION

- **God always has a Divine plan.** Because God is not capable of untruth (Numbers 23:19), His promises are *always fulfilled!* (Joshua 21:45; 1 Kings 8:56)  
Although the journey from the promise of the Messiah (Genesis 3:15) to the fulfillment of His birth was treacherous and seemed impossible, God perfectly fulfilled His promise and His Word! Praise His Name!  
His plan for us is always greater than our understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9) and may not develop the way we anticipate. However, if we remain faith filled, we will ultimately see His handiwork unfold in the right time and the right way.
- **God uses apparent closed doors to guide us** (into His will or what's best for us). When the Apostle Paul wanted to go into Asia God closed the door twice, only to open a glorious opportunity in Macedonia. (Acts 16:6-10)
- **In time, every piece of God's "puzzle" fits perfectly.** God's purpose was to have the birth of His Son be in the most obvious place, the Tower of the Flock, which had been consecrated for the birthing of sacrificial lambs. This not only fulfilled the prophecy in Micah 4:8 and 5:8 but also the Divine Type of Jesus as the Passover Lamb who would be sacrificed for our sins. (John 1:29)

The ENTIRE Christmas story is one miraculous event and fulfillment after another! Approximately 500 Old Testament promises point to the Messiah. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry.

How great and mighty is our God who performs His promises in due season. And nothing can thwart His plan and purpose for His people. (Job 42:2)

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*From Pastors Jack and Jane and the Council  
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