

## No Room – Dec. 22, 2021

Read **Luke 2** - Mary and Joseph face rejection. No room.

- Bible doesn't say where Jesus is born.

Shepherds – while “watching their flocks by night” – knew exactly where to find the newborn Messiah “in Bethlehem.” How did they know?

1 – Prophecy used to direct Magi.

**Micah 5:2** – “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, who are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth for Me One to be ruler over Israel—One whose origins are of old, from the days of eternity.”

- **Bethlehem Ephrathah** – will simply be known as Bethlehem.
  - o **Ephrath** has 2 meanings: (1) “ash heap” - place where Rachel (Jacob's beloved wife) is buried. And – 2-yr baby boys killed.
  - (2) “fruitfulness” – from Ephraim. “Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, “God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.” – **Gen. 41:52**
  - o **Isaiah 61:3**, Jesus proclaims: He has come to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, to comfort all who mourn, “to give them a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning.”
  - o “**Bethlehem**” in Hebrew means “house of bread.” Recall: Jesus said “I am the bread of life”... broken for us.

2 – 2nd Old Test. prophecy - **Micah 4:8** – “And you, **tower of the flock**, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you it will come, the former dominion will come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”

- Hebrew name - “watch tower of the flock” - “**Migdal Edar**”
  - o Prophecy tells that the Messiah will be born at **Migdal Edar**.

3 - **Bethlehem** - 5 mi. S. of Jerusalem. **David** - Bethlehem.

- a. **Luke 2:4** – Joseph travels from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea, “because he belonged to the house and lineage of David”
- b. **Sheep country...** w/watch tower for birthing ... **Migdal Edar**
- c. These were **sacrificial lambs** for use in Temple sacrifices.
  - i. **Shepherds were nearby**. They knew where to go.
  - ii. **Jesus** – lamb of God – born in **Migdal Edar**

The One who is our Shepherd began life with sheep.

## The place of His birth reminds us - God is the restorer of life.

Makes beauty from ashes. Fruitful from nothing. **We all have ash heaps**

God uses all things for good. He does the impossible.

**Luke 2:7** – “She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because **there was no room for them in the inn.**”

**kataluma** – “no **guest room** available for them.” (2010 NIV)

Joseph wasn't thinking “it's the most wonderful time of the year”

### 1 – “No room” – Severe Overcrowding in Bethlehem.

- Problem still today. **Minds** are overcrowded with news/info. **Hearts** are overcrowded with burdens & concerns & questions. **Schedules** are overcrowded ... **airwaves** are overcrowded w/noise, Our electronic devices & inboxes are overcrowded with messages.
- **We have to make room in our lives for God.**

### 2 – “No room” ... for Inn Keepers - **business was good.** No Vacancy.

- Too often, we put business before Jesus. Trust in 401k, not Jesus
- We put the business of life before Jesus. Things to do.
  - **Jesus offers us more purpose, more meaning, value in life.**
  - **2 Cor. 8:9** – “Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.”

### 3 – “No room” ... Family **rejected** Mary, Joseph & Jesus.

- **Luke 2:6** – “While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born . . .” Rejection from beginning to end.
- **Isaiah 53** prophesied that the Messiah would be “despised and rejected by men ... a Man of sorrow and acquainted w/grief.”
  - Many people reject Jesus. “No room.” No time. Closed doors.
  - Other times, friends/family want 1<sup>st</sup> place in our lives.
- **Open the door to a new way of life.** Choose Jesus.

No room ... but God had perfect plan. Shepherd born w/sheep.

Servant born in a humble stable. Lamb of God born as a sacrificial lamb.

Mary & Joseph - alone w/Jesus. Don't miss C-mas. Get alone with Jesus.

- Jesus - born in town w/“no room” came to prepare a room for us.
  - Accept the gift. Make room in your life for Him.

Song of the week: “**Make Room**”- Casting Crowns.