

WHY BETHLEHEM?
(Luke 2:1-20)

I. It's Present Significance

- A. A city in _____
- B. The _____ of _____
 - 1. God's _____ is evident when we view events as _____
 - 2. God's _____ is full of seemingly insignificant details
 - 3. God's _____ is rarely obvious to the people involved

II. The Providential Sequence

- A. Introduced as a _____ (Gen. 35:16-19)
 - 1. Originally called "Ephrath," meaning "_____"
 - 2. This child was given _____
 - a. Mother named him "Ben-oni," meaning "Son of my _____" (cf. Is. 53:3)
 - b. Father named him "Ben-jamin," meaning "Son of my _____" (Acts 2:33-34; 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34)
- B. Indicated as a place of _____ (Ruth 1:19; cf. Matt. 1:21)
 - 1. _____ was a widow from Moab, claimed by _____
 - 2. She was redeemed by _____, son of _____ (Ruth 4:11)
 - 3. She became mother of Obed, from whom came Jesse, from whom came _____, from whom came _____

- C. Seen as a place for anointing a _____ (1 Sam. 16:1)
1. _____ was sent to the household of Jesse
 2. God identified an insignificant _____ as _____ (cf. Luke 2:7-15; John 10:11-14)
- D. Shown to be a place of _____ (2 Sam. 19:32-38; 1 Kings 2:7; Jer. 41:17)
1. Barzillai helped _____ when he was in exile
 2. David _____ Barzillai's son Chimham for _____
- E. Seen later as a place of _____ (Jer. 41:16-43:7; Luke 2:1-6; cf. Matt. 11:29-30)
1. _____, with the King and his entourage, _____ there
 2. _____ and _____ likely visited the same _____
 3. _____ may have been born in a _____ at that _____
- F. Seen as a place of _____ (Luke 2:8-18)
1. Shepherds responsible for the _____ flock _____ at Jesus' birth
 2. Shepherds had been shown the "_____ of _____ who takes away the _____ of the world" (John 1:29)

III. A Powerful Story

- A. The Lord Jesus' _____ was part of God's eternal _____
- B. Our _____ is part of God's eternal _____ (Rev. 13:8)
1. We have the same _____ of fulfillment (Titus 1:1-2)
 2. We anticipate the same _____ in the future (Rom. 8:18, 28-30)