

JESUS CAME TO GIVE US THE BREAD OF LIFE

Christmas Gifts Part 2

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“O, Little Town Of Bethlehem”.

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch
of wondering love.*

*O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

The Story Of Bethlehem

I. IT IS THE STORY OF A PLACE

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans[a] 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 5:2

The name “**Bethlehem**” means **House of Bread**.

The name “**Ephrathah**” means **Place of Fruitfulness**.

II. IT IS THE STORY OF A PLAN

Micah tells us that the story of Bethlehem is about a place. But, it is also about a plan. The words “*out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel*” tell us that God had big plans for the little town of Bethlehem.

III. IT IS THE STORY OF A PERSON

Micah closes this verse with these words: “*whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*” These words reveal the truth that this One Who would be born in Bethlehem was no ordinary Man. In fact, Micah tells us that while He may be coming out of Bethlehem, He is eternal! He may be born in Bethlehem, but He will not have His beginning there.)

Why did Jesus come to this world? Why would He willingly leave Heaven with all its glories to live in this sin-stained world? Why would He die for people who cared nothing for Him? Well, the Bible is filled with answers to those questions.

To reveal the invisible God - Jn. 1:18; 14:9

To fulfill prophecy - Gen. 3:15

To make a sacrifice for our sins - Heb. 2:9; Heb. 10:4, 5, 10,

To reconcile man to God - 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6

To provide an example for believers - 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Jn. 2:6

To provide the believer with a high priest – Heb. 2:17; 3:1

To destroy the devil and his works – Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8

To destroy the curse – Rom. 5:12

To heal the broken hearted – Luke 4:18

To give abundant life – John 3:36; 10:10

To glorify the Father – John 13:31; 14:13; 17:4

To comfort us as we travel toward Heaven – Heb. 4:15-16.

In the final analysis, Jesus came to this earth in the fashion that He did because He loved you and wanted to give His life a ransom for your sins. He came because He cares! He came because He wants to see you saved and in Heaven someday.

He came because He loves you!