

Christmas 2014
A Tale of Two Cities (Part 1) – Bethlehem

LW – Finished 1 Thessalonians

Wed - Christmas Eve – Love was Born – Praying/Meditating, Read Micah, Jill’s Teaching

TW – A Tale of Two Cities (Part 1) – Bethlehem

NW – A Tale of Two Cities (Part 2) – Nazareth

What can we learn from the city of Bethlehem? **Luke 2:1-7**

1. Fulfilled prophecy - **Micah 5:2** (735-697 B.C.)

2. It was the Contrast/Opposite of Jerusalem – **Micah 1:1-5**

* Map – Look at what city they had to pass to get to Bethlehem – Jerusalem – 5 Miles

* Jerusalem – Home of Temple, religious rulers, Religion Day - **Matthew 23:13-34**

A – I think God chose Bethlehem - **Micah 5:2** – come to the lowly, humble, real need

3. Chosen because of the Name – House of Bread – **John 6:32-40**

4. Chosen because/David’s hometown, **Luke 2:4** - they were of the house/lineage of David

* **1 Sam 16:1-13** – David was a Shepherd who became a King

* Jesus is a King who became a shepherd – Who was he announced to first? **Lk 2:8-11**

* Jesus, “I am the Good Shepherd” – **John 10:11-16**

* Prophesied **Ezek 34:1-16**

* Jesus was both – Shepherd & King – **John 18:37**

Conclusion

* He passed by the big city of Jerusalem (Religious Center), that he might be born in the little town of Bethlehem.

* He was born in Bethlehem (House of Bread) – Bread of Life – Believes/Everlasting Life

* He was the born the Lamb of God introduced first to shepherds in the city of Bethlehem

* He was born in lowly estate in the lowly city of Bethlehem, that He might die in the city He where he would be crowned with a crown of thorns, where should have been crowned

King/Kings!

* **Micah 5:3-5**