



The Lord had Come!

Based on Luke 2:1-20

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com.



A. The Shepherds in this Story

The Mishnah (an oral teaching of the OT Rabbis in written form) states, "The area in and around Bethlehem was reserved by temple priests for the raising of animals that would be used in the temple sacrificial system...Only temple priests could shepherd in this area. Near Bethlehem, on the road to Jerusalem, was a tower known as *Migdal Edar* near *Shepherd's field*. Migdal means 'the watchtower of the flock.' This was where temple priests, functioning as shepherds, watched the flocks destined for sacrifice in the temple. It is an established conviction among the Jews that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, and equally, that He was to be revealed from Migdal Edar. [SOURCE: Mishnah: Bab. K.7; 7: 80a]

Migdal Edar (Heb: מגדל-עדר) lit., "**Watchtower of the flock,**" was "A lookout tower, just north of Bethlehem, west of Benjamin, that was first mentioned in Gen. 35:21, whose bottom portion was used as the sheep care facility that served as a manger where Jerusalem's sacrificial lambs were birthed and inspected. It's believed this is where Jesus was born," per Micah 4:8. [SOURCE: Art. by Timothy J. Etherington, "Away in a Tower? Quoted by Bruce K. Waltke, *A Commentary on Micah*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2007), 234.]

Micah 4:8, HCSB -⁸ *And you, watchtower for the flock, fortified hill of Daughter Zion [meaning Bethlehem], the former rule will come to you, sovereignty will come to Daughter Jerusalem.*



B. The Sequence in This Story. THE LORD HAS COME!

1. The Lord came to the **Right Place.** (2:1-5)

Bethlehem was prophesied as the birthplace of Jesus in Micah 5:2-4.
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

2. The Lord came at the **Right Time.** (2:6-7)

Galatians 4:4-5, NASB95 -⁴ *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.* "Away in the Manger"

3. The Lord came for the **Right Reason.** (2:8-12)

Luke 2:11, NASB95 -¹¹ *...for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

4. The Lord came with the **Right Choir.** (2:13-14)

Luke 2:13, NASB95 -¹³ *And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying...* "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

5. The Lord came to the **Right Persons.** (2:15-18, 20)

Luke 2:15, NASB95 -¹⁵ *When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." "Go, Tell it on the Mountains"*

6. The Lord came through the **Right Woman.** (2:19)

Luke 2:19, NASB95 -¹⁹ *But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.* "Mary, Did You Know?"



C. The Significance of This Story.

1. Here, you can find a **FAITH** that can outweigh your fear.

Luke 2:10, NASB95 -¹⁰ *But the angel said ... "Do not be afraid."*

2. Here, you can find a **JOY** that can outweigh your distress.

Luke 2:10, NASB95 - *"...I bring you good news of great joy..."*

3. Here, you can find **PEACE** that can outweigh your storm.

Luke 2:14, NASB95 - *"...peace to men..."*