

The background features a dark blue and purple night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. A faint, white star map or constellation lines are overlaid on the sky. At the bottom, there is a dark silhouette of a landscape, possibly a desert or a field, with a few small trees or structures visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and celestial.

The Light of Bethlehem



Luke 2:

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. 6 While they were there, the days were completed



Luke 2:

for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 In the same region there were [some] shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in



Luke 2:

the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "This [will be] a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."



Intro:

- Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem....
- Such a great focus on such a small place...
 - Not much there, even today it is still small
 - A place of many changes...and owners
- Yet, it was the **CHOSEN** place

God's Hand

- God moves all of Rome to get Messiah:
 - Where He should be born
 - Where His parents can be protected
 - Where others will know where to find HIM!!

Man's Play

- Caesar Augustus (Octavian) is in power
 - Time for taxes!! (things have not changed!)
 - Also used for military proscription – draft!
 - Four things to be recorded: (every 14 years)
 - Name, Occupation, Property, Family lineage

Bethlehem...

1. A place of LIFE, birth of Benjamin Ge 35:19
2. A place of DEATH, burial of Rachel Ge 35:20
3. A place of HOPE, marriage of Ruth Ru 4
4. A place of DESTINY, birthplace/anoointing David
5. A place of PROMISE, Mi 5:2

Micah 5:2 (NASB)

- 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of
Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be
ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from
long ago, From the days of eternity.”

The Child

- At just the right time...
 - Circumstances are never “right”... but God...
 - Birth of this child would change everything
 - And we don't even know the place!
 - Joseph and Mary accomplish their part...

The Gathering

- Shepherds in the Fields
 - Just another night of work and care
- An Angel – this would have been enough...
- “the Glory of the Lord shone around them”
 - “for all the people... for you a Savior”

Heaven's Cry

- Angelic “army” and God’s Glory!
 - He is the True Light, shining to this World
 - “Glory to God in the Highest”
- Leaves the Shepherds with a choice...
 - Remain in fear... or go and see...



Luke 2:

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." 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

The Find!

- Shepherd's search...
 - How many pilgrims, how many mangers?
 - No “star”, no angelic guide...
 - But, they sought and found the Light!!!
 - A baby wrapped in cloths, in a manger...



One more thing...

- O Come let us adore Him!!!!
 - Let your spirit be moved to praise
 - Let your “Gifts” be given and seen as unworthy
 - Let your Heart be His place of Rule
 - GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!!!