



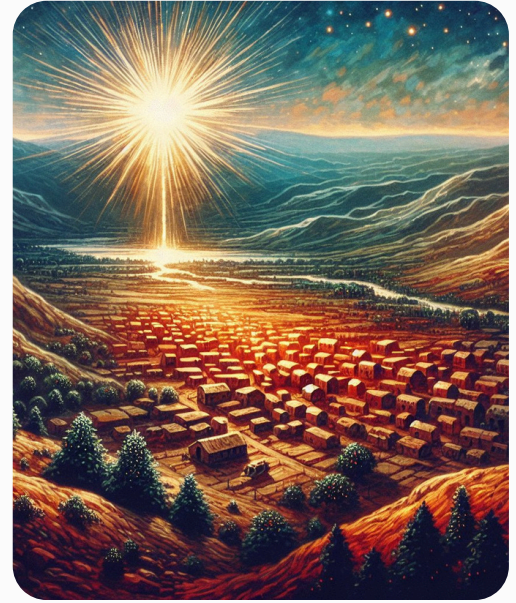
Pastor Luke's Weekly Blog

August 20, 2026

OUT OF BETHLEHEM

MICAH 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.



About seven hundred years before Mary gave birth in a manger, a prophet named Micah pinpointed the birthplace of Israel's coming Ruler.

Micah prophesied during a time of national crisis for both Israel and Judah. The people needed more than a political reformer or a military hero; they needed a Ruler appointed and sent by God Himself. God, through Micah, offered a promise that reoriented the hopes of an entire people: a deliverer would come from Bethlehem; a little, obscure, overlooked city.

Bethlehem Ephrathah was David's Bethlehem, the city of Jesse's house, the town where the youngest and least likely son was anointed king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). God consistently chooses the small, the overlooked, the unlikely. He chose the youngest son over the eldest. He chose the smallest tribe of Benjamin for His first king. And He chose the least of Judah's towns to bring forth the King of kings.

When King Herod inquired of the chief priests and scribes where the Christ was to be born, they quoted Micah: ***In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet...*** (Matthew 2:4-6). They understood perfectly well that Micah was speaking of the Messiah.



Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, but Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census, requiring each household to register in their ancestral city. Joseph, being of the house and lineage of David, traveled to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). The most powerful emperor in the world, unknowingly serving the purposes of God, set in motion the circumstances that brought God's Son to the exact city a prophet had named seven centuries earlier.

The one to be born in Bethlehem was great. His origins were not in Mary's womb but in eternity. The phrase from of old, from everlasting days, speaks of existence without beginning, being beyond time.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). The goings forth from everlasting is the eternal generation of the Son; the Word who was before all things. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Eternity entered time. The uncreated became creature. The One whose goings forth are from everlasting was laid in a manger in Bethlehem. This is the miracle of the incarnation.

Jesus affirmed His divine preexistence on multiple occasions. Before Abraham was, I AM (John 8:58). He prayed: And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was (John 17:5). Jesus Christ is the firstborn over all creation, not the first created, but the sovereign over all creation and that by Him all things were created (Colossians 1:15-16). The Ruler born in Bethlehem is the One through whom the universe was spoken into being.

God's salvation always defies human expectation. We look for power in the great cities, wisdom in the famous institutions, hope in the corridors of influence. But God births His greatest work in the smallest places. He still works that way today; in humble hearts, in ordinary communities, in people that the world overlooks.

Ask God to:

1. help you to trust that He is equally specific and intentional in the plans He has for your lives.
2. kindle in your heart a fresh wonder at the miracle of the incarnation.
3. help you to see His sovereign hand at work even in circumstances that seem ordinary or inconvenient.



Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!
Rev. Luke Haisa