

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

December 24, 2012

The Gift Of God

MICAH 5:2 NLT – (2) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.

This was the scripture which the scribes went upon when with the greatest assurance they told Herod where Christ should be born (**Matthew 2:6**), and hence it was universally known among the Jews that Christ should come out of the town of Bethlehem where David was, **John 7:42**. Bethlehem signifies the house of bread, the fittest place for him to be born in who is the bread of life. And, because it was the city of David, by a special providence it was ordered that he should be born there who was to be the Son of David, and his heir and successor for ever. It is called Bethlehem-Ephrathah, both names of the same city, as appears **Genesis 35:19**. It was little among the thousands of Judah, not considerable either for the number of the inhabitants or the figure they made; it had nothing in it worthy to have this honor put upon it; but God in that, as in other instances, chose to exalt those of low degree, **Luke 1:52**. Christ would give honor to the place of his birth, and not derive honor from it: Though thou be little, yet this shall make thee great, and, as St. Matthew reads it, Thou art not the least among the princes of Judah, but upon this account art really honorable above any of them.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for **ALL** of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over. "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." **1 John 1:9**

We can truly be happy about Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day. Look at Christmas in a new way. Right now (if you haven't done so already), invite Jesus into your heart. The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met. Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:35

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree.

December 1, 2012

