

**TO FULFILL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN #3**  
**“Place Matters”**  
**December 10-12, 2005**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. *Matthew 2:1-12 TNIV*

<sup>1</sup>Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel’s ruler on the cheek with a rod. <sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

*Micah 5:1-4 TNIV*

Introduction: In a mobile society, our understanding of God’s purpose for our lives tends to be rather vague and general. We believe that God calls us to serve Him, but we think of the times and places of that service as matters of personal preference. As we consider God’s call, we should be aware of the precision and specificity of God’s plan.

- I. The Prophecies of Micah
  - A. Christians have traditionally viewed parts of Micah as direct prophecies about Jesus Christ:
    1. The Messiah would be from everlasting, eternal. (Micah 5:2; John 1:1-2 and 8:58)
    2. The Messiah would be born of a woman as a sign. (Micah 5:3 and Isaiah 7:14; Galatians 4:4-5)
    3. The Messiah would be “the Shepherd.” (Micah 5:4; John 10:11-16)
    4. The Messiah would be “the Prince of Peace.” (Micah 5:5 and Isaiah 9:6; John 16:33)
    5. The Messiah would be struck on the cheek at his trial. (Micah 5:1; Matthew 27:30)
  - B. With regard to the Jesus’ birth narratives, Micah’s prophecy concerning Bethlehem is most interesting.
    1. Bethlehem would have been a very unlikely place for the birth of a Messiah.
    2. Micah’s prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem was clearly understood. (Matt. 2:5)
- II. The Plans of God
  - A. Time and place are vital, specific components of the Christmas story.
  - B. Throughout Scripture, we find that God calls people in specific times and places to accomplish His plans.
  - C. As with Mary and Joseph, we may be completely unaware that we have been drawn to a specific place for a divinely appointed time.
  - D. God’s plan, not our own whims, must be the central concern in our “where and when” decisions.
  - E. God calls us to specific times and places!

Conclusion: We may be unaware that we have been led to specific places for divinely appointed times, but God is always working in our lives to accomplish His plans. When it comes to serving God, place matters!