

## Going To Bethlehem

*“1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:1-7)*

Joseph and Mary they were forced to travel from Galilee to Bethlehem in order for them to be registered there because Joseph belonged to the house and the line of David. Mary was pregnant and she was forced to travel a long distance. You may ask, “Why they need to go there and suffer? Why Joseph comply with the rule of the government? Why God make it on the couple more difficult?”

Joseph was a righteous man, and he abided with the rule of the government because he wanted to obey God, beside that God allow this rule from the government to pass on because He needs Christ to be born there. Therefore do not question God why events uneasy might be passing through your life. God has a plan for your life and you need to go through God’s plan.

*Matthew 2:1-6 “1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 " '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 be the shepherd of my people Israel." It speaks about the Magi who came to Jerusalem seeking to meet the Lord, and they were directed according to the Scripture toward Bethlehem. Now if Joseph and Mary did not comply with God’s will and moved to Bethlehem then those Magi will not be able to meet Christ. You must understand that your obedience is expected and required by God so that others will meet Christ.*

*Micah 5:2 says, “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.”* Before the creation of the world God had ordained in His Word that Bethlehem it shall be the place of the birth of Jesus. And God will not change the place of Jesus’ birth because God will not change what he said in His Word.

Therefore what God had planned for you He will not change, and He will force you and change you to abide in what he planned, and if you persistently refuse what He planned for

you, the Lord still will do what he planned. In the book of *Ruth 1:1-2 “1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.”* This family they did their own and travelled away from where God wants them to be. The word Bethlehem means the house of bread and Jesus who born in Bethlehem the house of bread says, *“I am the bread of life.” (John 6:48)* and for us the bread of life, Jesus Christ, is the word of God and the will of God. Therefore this family when they moved away from Bethlehem they were moving away from the word of God and away from the will of God. They persisted in their disobedience and they married Moabites, non believer’s women. They insisted to do their own plan and will. But did the Lord change his plan for them? No. God did not change His plan for this family. They were to be in Bethlehem, but when they did not repent, the Lord caused them to die, and brought their widows back, *“When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.” (Ruth 1:6)* Finally Ruth went back with Naomi to Bethlehem, the house of bread, *“So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.” (Ruth 1:22)* And through the kinsman redeemer ordinance, God caused Boaz the kinsman for Elimelech to marry Ruth, and Boaz said, *“10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!” (Ruth 4:10)* God had His plan and man’s disobedience will not stop God. That family should not move from Bethlehem and even when they moved away from God and His word and His will, still God did what He ordained to do. God brought them back in His own way so that the line that will lead to the Messiah will continue, *“13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." 16 Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. 17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.” (Ruth 4:13-17)*

What you can learn from this event that God can and is able to handle your disobedience, therefore return back to God, to His Word and will, repent and do not put yourself in trouble. The Lord had good plan for you, therefore abide with God’s will. God has His plan and no one can reverse what He ordained.

Going to Bethlehem, is going to the word of God and the will of God. When Saul failed God and did not obey the command of the Lord to fully destroy Amalek the Lord rejected him. Samuel continue to grieve for Saul, therefore, *“The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his*

**sons to be king.” (1Samuel 16:1)** Samuel obeyed the Lord and David indeed anointed as King over Israel. Saul was the tallest man in Israel and when he disobeyed God that was big loss and trauma and discouragement for Samuel. But when Samuel obeyed the Lord and went to Bethlehem David the young boy with the anointing of The Holy Spirit rose up as a mighty king and leader over God’s people. When you go to Bethlehem, the Word of God and the will of God, your grief will be treated and will meet and receive the great anointing of The Holy Spirit who will enable you to defeat your enemies as David defeated Goliath.

**Jeremiah 29:13** says, **“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”** Going to Bethlehem is a possible journey when people humble down and willing to accept and comply with God’s word. The chief priests and teachers of the law they knew were Christ ought to be born but they were not willing to go along the wise Magi because they had pride and were not willing to leave Jerusalem and the palace of Herod. Finally the Magi were able to meet Christ, worship and serve, **“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 and of incense and of myrrh.”** (Matthew 2:11)

Going to Bethlehem, to the Word of God and meeting Christ has value and impact to your life and the life of the people around you. The Shepherds who went to Bethlehem they received the impact of Jesus’ birth on their lives: **“8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,”** (Luke 2:8-17) When they went to Bethlehem they got revived and received the message and went forward to spread the message concerning Jesus.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The same for you, as you humble down and go to meet the Lord, and accept His Word and will, your life will be changed, you will receive the stamina and will be a blessing to others by giving them Jesus and His message, as you agree to pray

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I humble down before you and ask you forgiveness for all my sins \_\_\_\_\_ and the things I did \_\_\_\_\_ against your will. Lord equip me with your word, revive me and strengthen me for I am willing to go forward and do your work and your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

# Jesus christ



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