

December 20, 2009

**Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.**

## **Monday**

Luke 2:1 & 4-5 A decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth... Joseph also went up from Galilee, to Bethlehem, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

The providence of God is a wonderful comfort and assurance. God announced over 500 years before the event that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. He appointed Caesar and a census to make it happen. He orchestrated history to see it done. He is working in your life in just such a way – if you will trust in Him. The Proverbs proclaim, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” No less for you than for Bethlehem!

## **Tuesday**

Mic. 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, ...”

Do you sense that you are unimportant, too little? Do you feel that your ministry is of little significance? Never! Not when God has touched your life! As you allow Him to control, to lead and direct your life, as you place your plans in His hands, He will make all things significant. Do not belittle that which God is doing in you or through you as you grow in Him. Bethlehem was ‘too little’, yet God’s choice of this little town will never be forgotten. God has chosen you as well.

## **Wednesday**

Mic. 5:2 “Bethlehem ... 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.”

Though born in Bethlehem, Jesus’ history did not begin there. Here is a mystery of the ages – Jesus existed before time began. He is the creator and sustainer of the world. He is God eternal, magnificent, and majestic. John writes of His nature. “In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God. All things came into existence by Him...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to be called the children of God.” Take time today to worship and praise Jesus, our creator and God.

## **Thursday**

Mic. 5:5 This One will be our peace...

Peace ultimately is not an outward state but an inward, spiritual one. Jesus will one day bring an end to war upon the earth. He will rule and reign as King of kings. But peace in your life does not have to wait for His second advent, for He seeks to bring peace to your life today. He offers peace with God through redemption of sin. He offers peace of mind through trust in His providence. He offers peace in relationships through grace. He is your peace. Trust in Him.

## **Friday**

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (KJV)

Christmas marks the beginning of Jesus’ journey to the cross. He laid aside his mantle of majesty and traded it for swaddling clothes. He left the adulation of angels and settled for the adoration of a human mother. For a period, His words no longer commanded the hosts of heaven, instead His cries solicited a parent’s attention. This celebration of this season often hides the story instead of highlighting it. I pray that the festivities, food, and family gatherings will not hide it from you. Determine to make the real meaning of Christmas the focus of these days and not their background. Take time to read the story of Christmas with your family. Take time to meditate upon its influence and meaning. Take time to pray together and give thanks to God.