

The Sovereign Birth of Christ
Sunday Morning, December 15, 2019
Luke 2:1–20; Micah 5:1–5a

- I. God's Sovereign Plan Announced Micah 5:1–5a
 - A. Messiah Would Be the Eternal One

 - B. Messiah Would Be from Bethlehem

- II. God's Sovereign Plan Implemented Luke 2:1–6
 - A. God's Plan in the *Timing* of the Census to Have Jesus Born in Bethlehem
 - 1. The Timing of the Emperor Ordering the Census
 - 2. The Timing of Herod's Taking of the Census

 - B. God's Plan in the *Details* of the Census to Have Jesus Born in Bethlehem

 - C. God's Plan in the *Motives* in this Census to Have Jesus Born in Bethlehem
 - 1. Mary Was Not Going to Bethlehem for Pleasure

 - 2. Mary Was Not Going to Bethlehem for Duty

 - 3. Mary Was Not Going to Bethlehem for God

 - 4. Why Was Mary Going to Bethlehem? Matt. 1:19

- III. God's Sovereign Plan Accomplished Lk. 2:7–20
 - A. Jesus, Born in Bethlehem Lk. 2:6; Gal. 4:4

 - B. Jesus, Eternal God Lk. 2:8–11; Mic. 5:2; Phil. 2:6, 7

 - C. Jesus, Savior Lk 2:11; 2:14; Mic. 5:4a

Quote

SOURCE OF ALL GOOD, What shall I render to Thee for the gift of gifts, Thine own dear Son, begotten, not created, My redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute, His self-emptying incomprehensible, His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

Herein is wonder of wonders: He came below to raise me above, was born like me that I might become like Him.

Herein is love; when I cannot rise to Him He draws near on wings of grace, to raise me to Himself. Herein is power; when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart He united them in indissoluble unity, the uncreated and the created.

Herein is wisdom; when I was undone, with no will to return to Him, and no intellect to devise recovery, He came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost, as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf, to work out a perfect righteousness for me.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind; let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore, my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;

Place me with ox, ass, camel, goat, to look with them upon my Redeemer's face, and in Him account myself delivered from sin;

Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart, embrace Him with undying faith, exulting that He is mine and I am His.

In Him Thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more.

(From The Valley of Vision - a collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, Banner of Truth)