

# *“Miracle at Bethlehem”*

Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25  
East Berlin Community Church  
Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook  
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## Introduction

- The *“Miracle on the Hudson”*
- Two Classifications of Miracles
  - 1) Event that supersedes or suspends natural laws.
  - 2) Events involving Timing-- right people, right place, right time

## *The Miracle at Bethlehem*

### **A. The Miracle of the “Timing”: People, Place, Time --2:1-5**

1. *“In the days of Caesar Augustus”* -- 2:1
2. *“The decree to register for taxation”* -- 2:1-3
  - a. Problems with the first census of Quirinius
    - 1) Stated: 6AD-- too late for birth of Christ
    - 2) Solutions
      - a) Earlier governorship of Syria
      - b) Registration began earlier; taxes collected later
      - c) Word “first” can be translated “before”-- an earlier census-- Acts 5:37
  - b. Why did they have to return to their hometown?
    - 1) Not the ‘head tax’
    - 2) Headache of figuring tax liability
      - a) OT laws regarding land ownership-- Lev 25:23
      - b) Only way for Rome to find owner
3. Joseph and Mary *“went up to Bethlehem”* -- 2:4-5
  - a. Bethlehem as the *“city of David”*-- 1 Sam 20:6; 17:15
  - b. **Miracle:** Joseph and Mary are together-- Matt 1:18-25
    - 1) Joseph’s decision to divorce-- 1:18-19
    - 2) God’s command to Marry-- 1:20-23
    - 3) Joseph’s obedience-- 1:24
    - 4) Technically still his ‘espoused wife’-- 1:25
4. **Miracle:** Mary and Joseph are in the right place at the right time to fulfill the prophecy of Micah 5:2

### **B. The Non-Miracle of the Actual Birth-- 2:6-7**

1. *“No Room in the Inn”*
2. *“Swaddling cloths, lying in a manger”*