



# Where They Walked

## BETHLEHEM

- *“House of Bread” – northernmost city in Judah*
- *Also called Ephrath, Ephrathah, and the City of David*
- *Mentioned 51 times in the Old and New Testaments*

### THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

### BETHLEHEM TODAY

### THE NATIVITY – LUKE 2:1-7

1. How does Luke establish that the story of Christ is rooted in history?
2. Humanly speaking, what made this the right time for the Savior to be born?
3. The mystery of the incarnation is reported with such simple words, *“and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.”* How would you explain the importance of this event to someone who said, *“I don’t get it. What’s the big deal?”*

### **THE NATIVITY – LUKE 2:8-14**

1. As the video mentioned, just over the hill were the religious leaders and scholars and yet the angels appear to shepherds. Why would God do that? (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:26-27 for help)
2. “Living out in the field” has caused speculation about the timing of Jesus’ birth. How did the celebration of Christmas come to fall on December 25<sup>th</sup>? Should we feel uncomfortable with that fact?
3. The Glory of the LORD
4. Amid conflict and struggle, how do the angels’ words of peace bring comfort?

### **THE NATIVITY – LUKE 2:15-20**

1. What lessons do we learn from the actions of the shepherds and the actions of Mary in these closing verses to the Christmas account?

### **THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT AND THE SLAUGHTER OF BETHLEHEM – MATTHEW 2:13-18**

1. Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15 and levels of prophetic fulfillment
2. What reminders should we take away from the sad account of the slaughter of Bethlehem?

### **OTHER REFERENCES TO BETHLEHEM**

Genesis 35:19	Rachel’s burial place.
Ruth	Various verses and chapters relating to Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.
1 Samuel 16:1-13	David anointed to be king.
Micah 5:2	Where the Messiah would be born.
Matthew 2:1-12	The Magi visited Bethlehem.