

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Bethlehem: Just One  
Christmas Detail

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

December 19, 2021

### Scriptures:

Micah 5:1-6

**Theme:** Celebrate every detail of Christmas because each one reunites us to the vast love of God.

**Introduction:** Christmas is a holiday packed with energy, effort and details. Our culture has made it an object of much celebration; but even that is insignificant compared to the amount of attention that the Bible gives to what we celebrate at Christmas—the coming of the Savior to redeem his people from sin and death. We should appreciate the magnitude of what God has done, and by looking at the details we can more fully enjoy it. Even a detail as seemingly-insignificant as Bethlehem has much to show us.

Here are 3 ways that Bethlehem shows us the greatness of God's love in salvation:

### 1. Validating Christ's identity

Micah's prophecy is relatively straight-forward and uncontested: the Messiah is going to come from the insignificant town of Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:1-12 confirms that truth; and since Jesus is born in Bethlehem, that detail is part of the confirmation of his identity as Messiah.

This detail also reveals how the love of God works to sovereignly administer all things needed for his people to be saved.

### 2. Revealing Christ as victorious

At the time of Micah, Jerusalem was being disciplined by the Lord. He used the Assyrians to punish his people for their rebellion.

Yet in the midst of that punishment, the Lord sent a message of hope. From the town of Bethlehem Ephrathah ("fruitful house of bread") the Lord would raise a deliverer.

Jesus came to fulfill that promise, and to fulfill the promise of David, in order that God's people might receive true peace, rest, and security.

### 3. Teaching what kind of Lord he is

The insignificance of Bethlehem teaches us something about Jesus. He was not born in one of the great cities of the ancient world, but in a humble place.

Jesus came in the form of a servant (Phil 2:5-7), revealing his strength in how he served and what he did to save us. He calls his people to also serve and love one another.

### Questions:

1. How does God's sovereign rule over history affect you?
2. Are you spiritually hungry? How are you pursuing Jesus for spiritual growth?
3. Do you ever struggle with God's sovereignty in your life?

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