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Christmas surprises...then and now



The surprise of Bethlehem

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. [Luke 2:1–5]

When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they told him, “because this is what was written by the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:
Because out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.” [Matthew 2:3–6]*

*Bethlehem Ephrathah,
you are small among the clans of Judah;
one will come from you
to be ruler over Israel for me.
His origin is from antiquity,
from ancient times. [Micah 5:2]*

1. A surprise...geographically
(Yet God always chooses the insignificant and underdogs)
2. A surprise...in lineage
(Yet Jesus was from David and from the “Ancient of Days”)
3. A surprise...prophetically
(Jesus was actually born in Bethlehem!)



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