

“Bethlehem”

INTRODUCTION: There were 2 **“Bethlehem’s”**.

1 SOUTH – Judea – Where Jesus was born.

2 NORTH – In Galilee – 7 miles from Nazareth ... mentioned only once –

Joshua 19:15 – Land given to Zebulun.

- Micah 5:2 – **“Bethlehem Ephrathah”** – Land given to Ephraim.
- **“Bethlehem Ephrathah”** was the center of many Biblical events.
- God *“set the stage”* through 1700 years to history, to prepare the world for the MAIN EVENT.

1.- Rachel ... Is BURIED There – Genesis 35:16-19

- Rachel is a *“picture”* of the Jews ... Leah, *“picture”* of the Church.
- Rachel (Jews) was Jacob’s (God) 1st choice – Mt. 15:24
- Jacob (God) was rejected to be married to Rachel (Jews) – Jn. 1:11
- Leah (Church) wasn’t Jacob’s (God) 1st choice, but it was Leah (Church) that gave Jacob (God) his *“first born sons”*.
- Jacob had to wait 7 years to marry Rachel – Tribulation Period.
- Rachel died in child-birth ... 1700 years later, Jesus would die in giving birth to His Church.

2.- Ruth ... Is REDEEMED There – Ruth 4:10-11

- Boaz redeemed his bride in Bethlehem – 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Ruth’s descendent (Jesus) will 1 day rule over His Kingdom.

3.- David ... Was ANOINTED There – 1 Samuel 16:1,13

- The Jew’s idea of a *“King”* was different than God’s idea.
- Jesus will rule in our hearts and lives – Revelation 1:5-6

4.- David ... Was REFRESHED There – 2 Samuel 23:14-17

- The refreshing *“Word of Life”* would come later – John 4:13-14
- *“Refreshing Water”* is associated with Bethlehem – John 7:37

5.- The MESSIAH ... Is Prophesied – Micah 5:2

- *“born”*, yet *“from everlasting”* – John 1:1,14
- There was NO MISTAKE – Mt. 2:4-5, 2:7-8, Lk. 2:11,15
- **“Bethlehem”** means *‘house of bread’* – John 6:35

- God took 1700 years to *“plan out”* & *“prepare”* Jesus’ birth.
- Are you *“prepared”* for the *“gift”* of Jesus?