

**WHY BETHLEHEM?**  
**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**  
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**Micah 5:2-NLT**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, One whose origins are from the distant past.

**Ephrathah – ef-raw'-thaw-** It means – “a place of fruitfulness.” It also means – Israelitish woman. It was another name for Bethlehem.

The name Bethlehem means - “House of Bread.”

**John 6:33-NLT**

33 The true bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**Luke 2:7-CJB**

... and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him down in a feeding trough, because there was no space for them in the living-quarters.

**This is what Jesus was talking about when He said in:**

**John 6:49-57-Passion**

49 Your ancestors ate manna in the desert and died.

50 But standing here before you is the true Bread that comes out of heaven, and when you eat this Bread you will never die.

51 I alone am this living Bread that has come to you from heaven. Eat this Bread and you will live forever. The living Bread I give you is my body, which I will offer as a sacrifice so that all may live."

52 These words of Jesus sparked an angry outburst among the Jews. They protested, saying, "Does this man expect us to eat his body?"

53 Jesus replied to them, "Listen to this eternal truth: Unless you eat the body of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have eternal life.

54 Eternal life comes to the one who eats my body and drinks my blood, and I will raise him up in the last day.

55 For my body is real food for your spirit and my blood is real drink.

56 The one who eats my body and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

57 The Father of life sent me, and he is my life. In the same way, the one who feeds upon me, I will become his life.

**It is interesting to compare the manna to Jesus Christ:**

- (1) It came from heaven at night; Christ came from heaven when men were in darkness.
- (2) It fell on the dew; Christ came, born of the Spirit of God.
- (3) It was not defiled by the earth; Christ was sinless, separate from sinners.
- (4) It was small, round, and white, suggesting His humility, eternity, and purity.
- (5) It was sweet to the taste; Christ is sweet to those who trust Him.
- (6) It had to be taken and eaten; Christ must be received and appropriated by faith (John 1:12-13).
- (7) It came as a free gift; Christ is the free gift of God to the world.
- (8) There was sufficient for all; Christ is sufficient for all.
- (9) If you did not pick it up, you walked on it; if you do not receive Christ, you reject Him and walk on Him (Heb 10:26-31).
- (10) It was wilderness food; Christ is our food in this pilgrim journey to heaven.

**The Bible is the written Word. Whatever the Bible/scriptures says about Jesus, it also says about itself.**

**both are holy** (Luke 1:35 and 2Timothy 3:15);

**both are Truth** (John 14:6; John 17:17);

**both are Light** (John 8:12; Psalm 119:105);

**both give life** (John 5:21; Psalm 119:93);

**both produce the new birth** (1John 5:18; 1Peter 1:23);

**both are eternal** (Revelation 4:10; 1Peter 1:23);

**both are the power of God** (1Corinthians 1:24; Romans 1:16).