



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Micah 5:2

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email address is joe@southreno.com.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music by Lewis Henry Redner
Words by Phillips Brooks (Circa 1865)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell,
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks
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Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵ in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶ While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. - Luke 2:1-7, NASB95

1. Bethlehem was a city of fulfilled prophecy.

Micah 5:2, NASB95 - ² "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

2. Bethlehem was a city of familiar history.

Luke 2:4, NASB95 - ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David...

3. Bethlehem was a city of fabulous mystery.

Micah 5:2, NASB95 - ² "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."



A Baby's hands in Bethlehem were small and softly curled; But held within Their dimpled grasp the hope of all the world.

- Words not used by Phillips Brooks when writing "O Little Town of Bethlehem"