

- I. The Mysterious Work of God (v.1-3).**
 - A. God, through the prophet Micah, promised that the Christ-child would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).**
 - B. The expectant mother of the Christ-child lived in Nazareth.**
 - C. God used a Roman emperor to accomplish his purpose.**

- II. The Grueling Trip to Bethlehem (v.4,5).**
 - A. In all likelihood, the ninety-mile trip on unpaved, hilly trails took about ten days.**
 - B. The town of Bethlehem was overcrowded and the lone inn had no vacancies.**
 - C. Joseph and Mary were forced to stay in a nearby cave where donkeys and sheep were kept.**

- III. The Birth of the Promised Savior (v.6-14).**
 - A. Jesus was born in a cold, dark, smelly cave, wrapped in strips of cloth, and placed in a manger (feeding trough).**
 - B. Jesus was Mary's firstborn ("prototokos").**
 - 1. If Jesus was Mary's only born, Luke would have used the word "monogenes" (see John 3:16).**
 - 2. Mary's other children are listed in Matt. 13:55,56.**
 - C. An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds in fields nearby and shared the good news of Christ's birth.**
 - D. An army of angels appeared and praised God.**

- IV. The Reaction of the Shepherds (v.15-20).**
 - A. The faithful shepherds raced to see the Christ-child.**
 - B. The shepherds found Christ and shared him with others.**
 - C. The good news of Christ amazed people.**
 - D. The shepherds praised and glorified God.**

- V. Conclusion.**
 - A. The story of Jesus is the greatest story ever told.**
 - B. There was no room for Jesus in the Bethlehem Inn.**
 - C. Is there room for him in your life?**