

Most people when they read the bible just see the words they read but they do not open their hearts to understand the stories which are contained in the bible almost always have hidden behind them story some wonderful treasure which we must willingly want to search for in order to discover the answer because the inspired bible writers did not waste too much space talking about nothing.

It is up to us and it is also our responsibility to validate what we read in the bible before dismissing it as fiction a figment of a writer's imagination and we can validate every word and story by searching through history books looking up ancient arachnology records even google earth is a great tool as well the answers **are out there** **all we have to do is search**.

With the Passover almost upon us I thought that this might be a good time to give this message.

There was no room for Him in the inn is one such story in the bible- sadly today is no exception because there is **no room for Jesus in people's hearts and minds** just as there was no room in the inn for Him.

I feel that the message about the LORDS birth is a call to for us all to give Jesus the grand suite in our hearts the very best place with the best view because that is where LORD Jesus belongs in our hearts because sadly there was **no room** in the inn for Jesus.

There was a school play about the birth of Christ a young boy had just one line to say one simple line and guess what yep **he forgot it** the young boy at the time was playing the inn keeper.

When the time came for him to say his one single line he did a magic trick and **poof** he suddenly disappeared.

However behind the scenery on the stage the audience heard him asking the teacher **what was my line again I forgot what I was supposed to say** then someone whispered to him the line there's

no room in the inn then he went back on stage and said umm sorry there's no room in the inn and the play proceeded with some chuckles from the audience.

You see that's the problem there is never room for Jesus in our hearts but there is always plenty of room for other useless junk and many people chuckle whenever the name of Jesus is mentioned.

In [Luke 2:7](#) we read some amazing words and she gave birth to her son, the 1st born, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now let's back up a bit to verses 3-4 then all went to be registered each one to his own city, and Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and lineage of David.

To be more precise Joseph Mary's betrothed husband was not just some ordinary Jew off the street Joseph was the Prince of the house of Judah just as Boaz was the Prince of the house of Judah that is something which many people overlook and this information can be validated online on many internet sites and [1 Chronicles 2:10](#) [and Matthew 1:1-18](#).

If you read [Matthew 1:1-18](#) this shows the genealogy naming the birth right which omits David's oldest brothers just as Reuben lost his birthright.

So yes the story which the children in the play were portraying is also a serious one considering Joseph's standing in the House of Judah.

And when you consider the boys forgotten line there is no room for you here in the inn and Joseph's standing in the house of Judah one must then wonder why Joseph Mary and her soon to arrive son were rejected at the inn.

Was that rejection at the inn the will of GOD the Father one must ask
yes I believe it was.

If LORD Jesus were to say to us what He said to the Laodicean church in **Revelation 3:20** behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and I will sup with him, and he with Me. the last thing we want to say to LORD Jesus is gee sorry LORD but there is no room for you in my life or in my heart like maybe come back in a few years and knock.

The very thought of dismissing as nothing the greatest gift that we could ever receive should shatter us to our most inner core.

We should not **only accept the greatest gift but celebrate the fact** that God the Father gave us His greatest gift and that gift is **the gift of His precious son LORD Jesus Christ in our lives.**

That is what our life and our Church should be all about believing the bible and holding **tightly onto** Jesus and wanting to learn all about Him and love Him and also to love each other as LORD Jesus loved us.

Today I would like to share with you some of my thoughts about why there was no room for baby Jesus to be born in the inn. And why I feel that it was necessary for LORD Jesus to be born in a manger or stall.

I read these words from a verse a minute ago **and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger** those words I feel are giving us a vital clue to discover the answer but we **need to search.**

The definition of the word manger is a "stall" and a stall is where animals are kept and in **Luke 2:7** the word manger is translated as **stall.**

In the Septuagint which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament the word means a stall or a crib look at [Proverbs 14:4](#) stall there means manger.

So the million dollar question now is **what kind of "stall" or manger is the New Testament referring to** and exactly what kind of animal was fed or housed there.

About 6 years ago in a message I mentioned the tower of the flock recently Barbara mentioned this tower as well this once again sparked my enthusiasm to learn more about this strange tower.

[Micah 4:8](#) states, *And you, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto you **it shall come**, even the dominion of your former kingdom shall return to the daughter of Jerusalem.*

What or who is the **IT** in the Old Testament Who would come to or would be born at the tower of the flock.

The word tower is the Hebrew phrase Migdal Edar which means a watch tower or stronghold of the flock.

In ancient times the tower of the flock or Migdal Edar was a military tower erected to view into the valley on the edge of Bethlehem to protect the city -----and possibly it was built by the Canaanites we are not told.

There are several military towers recorded in the Old Testament look up [Judges 8:71, 9:46, 9:51; 2 Kings 9:17, 18:8; Nehemiah 3:1.](#) Some of those were Canaanite towers.

The very first mention of a tower at Bethlehem is recorded in [Genesis 35:21](#) And Israel moved and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar being the same Tower of the flock as mentioned in [Micah 4:8.](#)

Question was Jacob at the tower before he moved his flock to beyond it?

After Jacob left Bethel on his way to Ephrath as recorded in **Genesis 35:16** **Rachael travailed and she had great difficulty in giving birth.** We then read that Rachael was buried on the way to Ephrath which is Bethlehem please remember this is talking about ancient Bethlehem not the modern day Bethlehem of around 4 or 5BC as ancient Bethlehem or Ephrath Bethlehem and the tower of the flock were still located nearby at 4-5BC and that special name Ephrath as mentioned in **Genesis 35:16** I feel also holds the key to understanding **Luke 2:1-20**

We are told that after setting up a pillar upon Rachael's grave **35:20-21** Abraham moved and spread his tent beyond the Tower of Edar.

So either 2 things can be gleaned from those verses Rebecca died either in or on the outskirts of ancient Ephrath as that is where Jacob was heading and was only a short distance from Ephrath when Rachael had difficulty **verse 19** and that after building the pillar upon Rachel's grave Jacob moved either from ancient Ephrath where Migdal Edar is located to just beyond it.

The Septuagint translates like this from **verse 16** **then when Jacob had set out from Bethel, he pitched his tent beyond the tower of Gader (Edar) now it came about when he drew near Chabratha to go to the land of Ephratha that Rachael gave birth.** **Verse 19** **then Rachael died, and she was buried on the way to Ephratha (this is Bethlehem)**

What does the word Chabratha mean well Elliot's commentary tells us that the real meaning of the word is lost but probably it was a measure of distance and the Jewish interpreters generally think that it meant about a mile because Rachel's tomb was about that

distance from Bethlehem being 1.6km according to Google earth and about that distance from the tower.

Now I would like to ask you a most puzzling question which I cannot myself answer but maybe you can and it is a doozie if Leah and Jacob himself were buried in the Cave of Macphelah where Abraham Sarah and Isaac were buried and to where Jacob went to **all the trouble of transporting Joseph's bones to** being about 200 plus miles from Egypt so why was Rachael buried on the Road to Jerusalem 1.6 Km from Bethlehem 49km from the cave of Macphelah 3.8 km from Migdal Edar or the tower of the flock which is just 600 meters from the land of Ephratah being where Boaz Obed Jess and David lived.

[After services, one of my family in Christ presented this answer, Genesis 31:19-35 Rachael kept her fathers idols so she was thereby seperated because of idolatory.]

Maybe to fulfil the prophecy that what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 31:15** and **Matthew 2:17-19** then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, a voice was heard in Rama lamenting and weeping and great mourning, Rachael weeping for her children, and she would not be comforted, because they were not.

Ramah means a hill or a lofty place.

The tower of the flock was just that it was built on a hill and it was a lofty place an ancient tower this may be a hint or encrypted sign.

Combining the words Ephrath which means the fruitful and Bethlehem which means the house of bread we know that Jesus was the bread of life and He is also the fruitful vine.

Maybe the burial of Rachael where Jacob buried her was for that purpose to fulfil Jeremiah's prophecy and tell us to look for a hill or a lofty place near Ephrath where Jacob was heading.

Let's move on a bit more **Psalm 132:1-6** O LORD, remember David and all his afflictions, how he swore to the LORD, and he vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, surely I shall not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes, nor slumber to my eyelids, until I find out a place for the LORD, a habitation for the Mighty One of Jacob, lo, we heard it at Ephrathah we found it in the fields of the woods.

Found what in the fields of the woods as I said earlier Boaz's field was located 600 meters from the tower of the flock maybe David is talking about **Micah 4:8** as I read out earlier and here is another verse from **Micah 5:2** And you Bethlehem Ephrathah, you being least among the thousands of Judah, out of you He shall come forth to Me, that is to become ruler in Israel, He whose going forth have been from old, from the days of eternity. And **John 1:1** tells us just Who the He is.

Please note ancient Ephrathah in Bethlehem Judah Ephrathah was a suburb as we would call it it was located outside of Bethlehem as Bethlehem was a walled city where the wealthy and upper class lived the shepherds and farmers lived outside where their farms and flocks were.

1 Samuel 17:2 Now David was the son of an **Ephrathite** named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old.

That verse is very specific **David was an Ephrathite** meaning he lived at Ephrathah and worked on the family inheritance not in the walled city of Bethlehem itself.

Acts 13:22 and after removing him, He raised up David to be their King, to whom He also gave testimony, saying, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will perform all My will.

Boaz owned a home with a threshing floor in Ephrathah Bethlehem which by right of inheritance was handed down to succeeding generations within the lineage of David.

Ruth 1:2 and the name of the man was Emilelech [skip bit] Ephrathites of Bethlehem.

In **Ruth 2:4** we read and behold **Boaz came from Bethlehem** and said to the reapers.

Came **from Bethlehem** to his inheritance where the reapers were working so Boaz also owned a house in the city.

Ruth 2:18 and she took it up and went **into the city**, and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned.

Where did Ruth go from the fields on Boaz inheritance to the city.

Ruth 4:11 and all the people in the gate, and the elders, said, we are witnesses, May the LORD make the woman who has come into your house like Rachael and like Leah, for these two built the house of Israel, and may **you be blessed in Ephrathah**, and be famous **in Bethlehem**.

Luke 1:42 Elisabeth said to Mary **blessed** are you among women, and **blessed is the fruit of your womb**.

Remember Ephrathah means **fruitful** **Bethlehem means the house of bread** where was the city of David **Ephrathah Bethlehem** not modern Bethlehem.

Where do you suppose that have David may been born possibly the same place where LORD Jesus was to be born if David was **a man after My own heart, who will perform all My will** on his family's inheritance at Ephrathah.

It is commonly acknowledged that Migdal Edar is also mentioned by the **Jewish Targums** and is translated "The Anointed One of the flock of Israel".

Targum Yonatan as cited by Rabbi Munk paraphrases [Genesis 35:23](#) and [Micah 4:8](#) "He spread his tent beyond Migdal Eder the place where King Messiah will reveal Himself at the end of days."

Now the targumim or singular: "**targum**" were spoken paraphrases explanations and expansions of the **Jewish** scriptures also called the Tanakh that a Rabbi would give in the common language of the listeners which was then often Aramaic.

Ok I will move on to [Luke 2:8-13](#) Now there were shepherds **in the same country**, who were dwelling in the fields, and keeping watch over their flocks by night, and suddenly an angel of the LORD **stood by them**, and the glory of the LORD shined round about them, and they were seized with fear, but the angel said to them, do not be afraid, for behold, I am announcing to you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for today, in the city of David, a saviour was born to you, Who is Christ the LORD, **now this is the sign for you, you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

And the word for manger is a stall.

So are the shepherds expected to gate crash every house in Bethlehem looking for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes this would be like looking for a needle in a hay stack not to mention the arguments that they would have gotten into so no I do not think so.

So I ask you just who were these shepherds who the angel announced the LORDS birth to and why **of all people** were these shepherds the first to learn of the LORDS arrival why specifically say to them in the city of David and why was the specific instructions given them this special baby would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and He would be found lying in a stall or if you prefer a manger.

David was an Ephrathite so therefore the city of David would have been Ephrathah Bethlehem the suburb why because Ephrathah being his families inheritance and he being an Ephrathite would have had the family inheritance of Ephrathah passed down through generations to Jesse his father.

Remember 1 Samuel 17:2 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse.

This watch tower from ancient times Migdal Edar or the tower of the flock was used by the shepherds for protection from their enemies and for protection from wild beasts.

In this sheltered building which may also have had a cave inside we are not told the priest shepherds or temple shepherds would bring in the ewes which were about to give birth to special lambs for protection and inspection.

These special lambs came from a unique flock whose Lambs if suitable were designated for sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:8-18 records that there were shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their sheep by night.

Who then were these shepherds well as I said a minute ago and without question of doubt these were special priest or temple shepherds who resided near Bethlehem and I believe that they were the shepherds from Migdal Edar the tower of the flock at Ephrathah and that they were all well aware about what the Targum and many of the older rabbis taught being the very place where King Messiah will reveal Himself at the end of days.

And i am not talking about the Pharisees or scribes when I said rabbis.

The angels only told the shepherds that they would find the Babe wrapped in "swaddling clothes and lying in a manger in the city of David".

So you see there was no need for the angel to give these shepherds exact directions to the birth place or a staff mounted GPS because they already knew where to go.

These men were the levite priest or temple shepherds who raised these special sacrificial lambs which were to be sacrificed **at the Temple.**

When the angelic announcement came these shepherds knew exactly where to go and exactly where to look as Luke 2 said they did because to them the sign of a manger could only mean one thing their manger **their birthing stall** located at the tower of the flock.

Think about it for a minute you cannot explain the meaning or direction of the sign which they were given or their immediate response unless you have **the right manger and the right shepherds.**

What are we told about these lambs.

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: you shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats.

Also in **1 Peter 1:19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Since the lamb was in place of the firstborn male in **each household** the restriction to the first year is unique and refers apparently to the condition of perfect innocence in the antitype the Lamb of God. Also LORD Jesus was the 1st born male born to Mary and the LORDS step father Joseph.

And just a side thought for a sec could a household at Passover time also mean a church where we gather to honour the LORD and carry out His specific Passover instructions.

Just a thought?

Migdal Edar or the tower of the flock which is located at Ephratah Bethlehem is the perfect place for Christ to be born not the present site which tourists pay a large church handsomely to visit and think deeply would the LORD want people paying to see where He was born here on Earth no I do not think so.

LORD Jesus I feel was born in the very birthplace where tens of thousands of unique Passover lambs were born which had been earmarked and would be sacrificed to prefigure Him.
Remember Jesus is and was our Passover lamb.

God prophesised this God promised this and God performed this I believe at Migdal Edar the tower of the flock.

And all the pieces fits perfectly together like a jig saw puzzle because Migdal Edar was the place the very place where sacrificial lambs were born! LORD Jesus was not born behind an inn He was not born in a smelly stable where the donkeys of travellers and other animals were kept and He was not placed in a smelly crib.

I believe that LORD Jesus our Passover lamb was born in Ephrathah at the birthing place where the sacrificial lambs that were offered in the Temple in Jerusalem were born which Micah 4:8 calls the tower of the flock.

Proverbs 18:10 the name of the LORD is a strong tower, the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

John the Baptist in John 1:29 announced when seeing LORD Jesus **Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.**

John Knew and told us John gave us a clue.

Because Jesus is presented in the Bible as being **in type** a **sacrificial lamb**.

It was not by chance but predestined that LORD Jesus Christ identified **His birth His death His sacrifice** with the season of the observance of the Passover and with the sacrificial lambs when was Jesus born well that's another question which I will not go into at the moment but Jesus being the Passover lamb may also hold the answer.

Peter spoke of our salvation in **1 Peter 1:19** as I read out before **by the "precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot**.

Remember I said earlier the lambs at Migdal Eder were inspected for spots or blemishes.

And Paul in **1 Corinthians 5:7** told us that **for Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us**.

Revelation 5:6-14 speaks clearly of LORD Jesus Christ the slain lamb of GOD

Galatians 4:4-5 **But when the time for the fulfilment came, God sent forth his Own Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order that He might redeem those who are under the law, so that we might receive the gift of sonship from GOD.**

Jesus was the root of David therefore Jesus sprung up from where David's roots were at Ephrathah.

Isaiah 11:1 **and there shall come forth a shoot out from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots**

All the lambs which were born in this tower of the flock known as Migdal Eder were born under the skilful watchful eyes of the Levite shepherds who would once born carefully inspect every lamb for spots or blemishes and then once inspected they would either

certify the lamb for use as sacrifices in the temple or assign them to be released for common use.

The newly born lambs once inspected and accepted would according to some sources even be wrapped in special swaddling clothes once certified and then carefully laid in a stall.

The shepherds who kept these flocks were men who were specifically trained for this royal task.

They were educated in what lamb was acceptable to be sacrificed and it was their job to make sure that none of the animals were hurt damaged or blemished while in their care.

Also the Levite Shepherds themselves being under special Rabbinical supervision would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean stall for a birthing place.

These shepherds according to common practice kept their flocks outdoors twenty four hours a day every day of the year however they brought the ewes in to deliver their lambs where they could be carefully cared for.

It was to this place I believe that Joseph took Mary when the inn was full and remember for the inn to be full must have been a special appointed day or week.

Also the inn being full at possibly a special appointed feast day or week was I feel 100% controlled by the Father so that His Son would be born in or at the appointed prophesised place and time when and where His Son should be born.

Therefore it was I believe in this special place at Migdal Edar that LORD Jesus Christ our Saviour was born our Passover Lamb.

How do we know because of the scriptures which I read out concerning the tower of the flock and because of what Targum Yonatan cited by Rabbi Munk told us [Micah 4:8](#) said that Migdal Edar was the watchtower that guarded the Temple flocks which were being raised to serve as sacrificial animals in the Temple. As I said these were not just any flocks and herds these were special flocks and herds just as the special birth of LORD Jesus Christ our Passover lamb was also born there.

[Exodus 12:3-6](#) Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them each man a lamb, for a fathers house, a lamb for a house: And if the household is too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take according to the number of the souls; each one according to the eating of his mouth, you shall count concerning the lamb, Your lamb shall be without blemish. a male of the first year; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats, And you shall keep it up until the beginning of the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in between the 2 evenings.

The LORDS birth and death had to be according to the above ordinances just as His birth also had to fit in perfectly with the above ordinance.

As an unblemished male of the 1st year the 1st year I feel meaning the 1st year of the beginning from creation I am not sure on that point however maybe someone will let me know what that means.

Jesus then had to just like the Passover lambs enter Jerusalem with the lambs and be chosen on the 10th day for a Fathers House and sacrificed on the 14th day.

Did Jesus fulfil this yes He did.

John 12:1 says now 6 days before the Passover. Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died, and whom He had raised from the dead.

Then verse 2 they made supper for Him.

Dark portion of the day so we are now 5 days to the Passover. In verse 9 we read on the 5th day then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came not only because of Jesus but also that they might see Lazarus, Whom eHe had raised from the dead.

I feel that this event took up all the light hours of day 5 before the Passover.

In the night portion on the 10th day when the Passover lamb was to be selected verse 10 says but the chief priests took council in order that they might kill Lazarus as also.

Reading between the lines if Lazarus was ear marked being the also then LORD Jesus was chosen for death.

John 12:12 On the next day [being the 10th day of the month] a great crowd of people who had come for the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming **into Jerusalem**, took branches from Palm trees and went out to meet Him, and were shouting, Hosanna, Blessed [there's blessed again from **Ruth 4:11 and Luke 1:42**] Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the LORD, the King of Israel.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey the sacrificial Passover lambs were I believe being herded into Jerusalem.

Jesus was selected on the 10th day as required and sacrificed on the 14th day as required.

God ordained the details of Jesus' birth so that He came to this earth in the most significant place possible through the least likely means so that there is no question that His birth was miraculously orchestrated by God.

Although Bethlehem Ephrata of old was a lowly farm community it was the most significant place for the Messiah to be born.

Not only did the saffron for Temple worship come from Bethlehem Ephrata many of the resources for Temple worship came from Bethlehem Ephrata including the sacrificial Passover lambs. God I feel intentionally chose Ephratah Bethlehem as the birth place of the Messiah.

Jesus was born in this holy priestly city to satisfy all of the requirements of the **sacrifices for our sins.**

He came to this earth in the lowliest place gave His life for us so that we might have life forever.

Without any doubt at all I believe that He LORD Jesus was truly the promised Messiah!