RADIO TRANSCRIPT #13

singing :   "O little town of Bethlehem;,"

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

During this season the "little town of Bethlehem" takes on a special significance to many who otherwise have little or no consideration of it. It is the place of "myth and legend" to many of those who revel in all of the worldly celebrations which supposedly center on the "birth of the CHRIST-child". The history of this city is quite interesting. It is first mentioned in the scriptures as the burial place of Rachel, who was Jacob's wife. It is also one and the same with Zion, a fortified position on the outskirts of Jerusalem, in which David established his habitation when he took Jerusalem from the Jebusites. We read in *2Sam 5:7 that this stronghold was also called "the city of David."*

This *"city of David"* is also identified as Bethlehem when the angels appeared unto the shepherds saying *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)*   Micah had prophesied this event seven hundred years before it occurred when he wrote *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Mic 5:2)*

The glory and significance of what happened in Bethlehem, two thousand years ago, is not that a baby was born and laid in a manger but rather the fact that the ONE who was born there is the Eternal GOD "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." as Micah said. Many are enamored of this "little baby Jesus boy" which we see depicted in manger scenes around the globe. A little baby is quite harmless and multitudes pay lip service to worshipping HIM who otherwise turn a deaf ear unto HIS teaching and despise the place of HIS utter and absolute rule as the KING of kings and LORD of LORDs.

Isaiah wrote *"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation."* David also wrote the word of GOD in the Psalms saying, *""Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."*

This STONE which the FATHER laid in Zion is indeed that ONE which is the HEADSTONE of the corner which the earth's inhabitants who are enamored with their own religion rejected. Men love their own celebrations and we are supposed to believe that multitudes join hand in hand to worship the birth of CHRIST who completely disregard the only event of HIS life which HE commanded HIS children to "remember" which is HIS death.

The nature and essence of Zion is a spiritual kingdom which cannot be "inherited" by flesh and blood. The only way for a man to be included in this Kingdom is to be born there, by that birth which the LORD JESUS told Nicodemus about when HE said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." It is impossible for a man to claim natural citizenship in a land in which he had no natural birth and in the same fashion it is impossible that a man should consider himself to be a part of this spiritual kingdom who has not been born there.

It goes without saying that a man cannot choose the place or the time of his natural birth.   Neither can a man "choose" to be born into this spiritual kingdom, nor does he have any power or influence as to "if or when" it may occur. Those who are "born again" confess that their "re-birth" was as John described it, *"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*

True worship of the LIVING CHRIST can only occur as a man is given eyes to see the true glory of CHRIST. Upon what dear friend does your hope rest?   Is it upon the sinking sand of your own free will or upon the power of HIM who gives men life?

singing   "How silently, How silently"

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