

Daily Devotion For December 15, 2022

“Now after Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem”. Matthew 2:1

One of the things that I wish everyone would be able to experience is to visit the Holy Land at least once in their life. I have been blessed and fortunate to lead three trips to Israel. Of course, the trip to the Holy Land would not be complete without a visit to **Bethlehem**, the birthplace of Jesus.

Just after a young preacher by the name of Philips Brooks gave the Eulogy for Abraham Lincoln, he took a trip to the Holy Land. In the silence of the evening he gazed out at the still insignificant town and penned a poem that went, *“O Little Town Of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, a silent star goes by.”* A few years later, he completed that poem and Lewis Redner put music to those words. The third verse goes, *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.***

Many years later, Helen Keller met Philips Brooks and heard the gospel for the first time. She opened up her heart to receive him and the dear Christ entered in.

Thought For Today: In this season of Advent, take time today to be silent and to thank God for the wondrous gift of Jesus and the joy of salvation as Christ has entered into your life.

Today’s Prayer Focus: Remember to keep in prayer all those who are mourning and grieving the loss of their loved ones and pray that they know the presence and peace of Christ. Continue to pray for those in need of God’s strengthening and healing touch. Deo Volente.