

Migdal Eder - The Truth of Messiah's Birth

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July 13, 2018



News Letter 5854-016

The 2nd Year of the 4th Sabbatical Cycle

The 23rd year of the 120th Jubilee Cycle

The 29th day of the 4th month 5854 years after the creation of Adam

The 4th Month in the Second year of the Fourth Sabbatical Cycle

The 4th Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Sword, Famines, and Pestilence

July 14, 2018

Shabbat Shalom To the Royal Family,

This week in the News

This week we watched President Trump go to the NATO meetings. And he was told just how few Allies the USA had and not to alienate those few who are left.

Then President Trump slams Germany for their gas contracts with Russia.

While I agree with President Trump and love what he is doing, he is, so it seems to me, alienating all of his allies and especially Germany. Bible prophecy says that it will be the Assyrians, who today are known as the Germans and who are the leading nation of the European Union, who will lead a surprise attack against the USA. Genesis in the prophecy about Joseph tells us that he will be grievously wounded by the archers.

Gen 49:22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a fountain; His branches run over the wall. The archers have sorely grieved him, And shot at him, and persecute him:

And as you read this the President is then off to visit President Putin. President Trump is like a wrecking ball in NATO. He claims he has gotten what he wanted but at what price? Prophecy is telling us that the price indeed is going to be very dear.

Septennial Torah Portion # 68

We have resumed the Septennial Torah readings on our site. We used to do them and I would comment each week.

I will give you the reading for this week and you can go and read them without my comments. Instead of them being the annual Torah readings that are done in one year, the Septennial reading is done twice over the 7 year Sabbatical cycle.

The first week's reading would have been done on April 1, 2017. This is the start of the first week in this 4th Sabbatical cycle right after the Shemitah year was done. Since this time, this Sabbath is now the 68th week of this Sabbatical Cycle. The readings for this Sabbath today and for this upcoming 69th week are as follows.

Week #	Shabbat Date	Torah	Neviim	Ketuvim	Brit Chadasha
68	14/07/2018	Ex 22	Isaiah 28-29	Ps136-138	John 10
69	21/07/2018	Ex 23	Isaiah 30-33	Ps 139	John 11

Here are the links:

<https://sightedmoon.com/triennial-torah-study-year-2-02072011/>

<https://sightedmoon.com/triennial-torah-study-year2-09072011/>

The Metonic Cycles

The Hebrew calendar uses a 19 years' Metonic cycle to determine when the leap years are. That is every 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19 an extra month is added automatically. Why do they do this and where did they get this idea from? 2016-2017 starting at in the month of Tishri was the 1st year of the new 19 year cycle. This makes this Tishri the start of the second year. The commandment to keep the 19-year cycles is found in Lev 29:4. Go and read it.

While you are searching for that scripture, let me explain this 19-year cycle to you.

For astronomy and calendar studies, the **Metonic cycle** or **Enneadecaeteris** (from Ancient Greek: $\epsilon\eta\kappa\epsilon\alpha\delta\epsilon\kappa\epsilon\tau\epsilon\rho\epsilon\tau\epsilon\rho\iota\varsigma$, “nineteen years”) is a period of very close to 19 years that is remarkable for being nearly a common multiple of the solar year and the synodic (lunar) month. The Greek astronomer Meton of Athens (fifth century BC) observed that a period of 19 years is almost exactly equal to 235 synodic months and, rounded to full days, counts 6,940 days. The difference between the two periods (of 19 years and 235 synodic months) is only a few hours, depending on the definition of the year.

Considering a year to be $1/19$ of this 6,940-day cycle gives a year length of $365 + 1/4 + 1/76$ days (the unrounded cycle is much more accurate), which is slightly more than 12 synodic months. To keep a 12-month lunar year in pace with the solar year, an intercalary 13th month would have to be added on seven occasions during the nineteen-year period ($235 = 19 \times 12 + 7$). When Meton introduced the cycle around 432 BC, it was already known by Babylonian astronomers.

A mechanical computation of the cycle is built into the Antikythera mechanism. (The **Antikythera mechanism** is an ancient analog computer designed to predict astronomical positions and eclipses for calendrical and astrological purposes, as well as the Olympiads, the cycles of the ancient Olympic Games.)



The cycle was used in the Babylonian calendar, ancient Chinese calendar systems (the 'Rule Cycle') and the medieval computus (i.e. the calculation of the date of Easter). It regulates the 19-year cycle of intercalary months of the Hebrew calendar.

At the time of Meton, axial precession had not yet been discovered, and he could not distinguish between sidereal years (currently: 365.256363 days) and tropical years (currently: 365.242190 days). Most calendars, like the commonly used Gregorian calendar, are based on the tropical year and maintain the seasons at the same calendar times each year. Nineteen tropical years are about two hours shorter than 235 synodic months. The Metonic cycle's error is, therefore, one full day every 219 years, or 12.4 parts per million.

The Metonic cycle has an error in it? Would Yehovah's system have such an error?

Again from The Hebrew Calendar;

The present Hebrew calendar is the product of evolution, including a Babylonian influence. Until the Tannaitic period (approximately 10–220 CE), the calendar employed a new crescent moon, with an additional month normally added every two or three years to correct for the difference between twelve lunar months and the solar year. The year in which it was added was based on observation of natural agriculture-related events in Israel.[Specifically, the ripening of the barley crop; the age of the kids, lambs, and doves; the ripeness of the fruit trees; and the relation of the date to the tekufah (seasons). See the Talmud, Sanhedrin 11b] Through the Amoraic period (200–500 CE) and into the Geonic period, this system was gradually displaced by the mathematical rules used today. The principles and rules were **fully codified by Maimonides in the Mishneh Torah in the 12th century**. Maimonides' work also replaced counting “years since the destruction of the Temple” with the modern creation-era Anno Mundi.

The Hebrew lunar year is about eleven days shorter than the solar year and uses the 19-year Metonic cycle to bring it into line with the solar year, with the addition of an intercalary month every two or three years, for a total of seven times per 19 years. Even with this intercalation, the average Hebrew calendar year is longer by about 6 minutes and 40 seconds than the current mean tropical year, so that every 216 years the Hebrew calendar will fall a day behind the current mean tropical year; and about every 231 years it will fall a day behind the mean Gregorian calendar year.

When I do the math and subtract the time from when the new system was codified by Rambam, (Maimonides) or whether I use the same error that the Metonic Cycles mentions, I come up with the same answer of 3 to almost 4 days in error today in 2018.

Using the Metonic Cycles error of one full day every 219 years, I take 2018 and subtract the year of codification about 1180 CE by Maimonides and you get 838 years. You now divide the 838 years by 219 to get 3.8 days. The Hebrew calendar is going to be out by as much as 3.8 days since it was codified by Maimonides. This also means that the Holy Days will also be out by this same amount of time.

You can do the math using the 216 year error as well.

Roy Hoffman of the New Moon Society, which is now sighting the moon and gathering information for the Sanhedrin for the day they once again revert back to the sighting of the moon, states that;

For over a thousand years, the Hebrew calendar has been fixed by calculation. Today, the Hebrew calendar does not match that fixed by observing the Moon. Even though the gap between the two calendars continues to increase, we do not have the authority to alter the calendar until a new Sanhedrin (religious high court) is re-established and is widely recognized.

So instead of doing the right thing and doing what Yehovah has said, the Jews would rather remain unified, and have all of them keep the same mistake at the same time. Yes, you read that right. They know the Hebrew calendar is wrong and off by a few days from the original,

but they will not correct it. What about you? Will you obey Yehovah or are you one of those who follows the lemmings off the cliff?

Back to the Metonic article;

Traditionally, for the Babylonians and Hebrew lunisolar calendars, the years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19 are the long (13-month) years of the Metonic cycle. This cycle, which can be used to predict eclipses, forms the basis of the Greek and Hebrew calendars, and is used for the computation of the date of Easter year.

The Babylonians applied the 19-year cycle since the late sixth century BC. As they measured the moon's motion against the stars, the 235:19 relationship may originally have referred to sidereal years, instead of tropical years as it has been used for various calendars.

Now let me quote to you how Judaism justifies this Metonic cycle and at the same time show you where we are in that Metonic cycle.

The lunar month on the Jewish calendar begins when the first sliver of moon becomes visible after the dark of the moon. In ancient times, the new months used to be determined by observation. When people observed the new moon, they would notify the Sanhedrin. When the Sanhedrin heard testimony from two independent, reliable eyewitnesses that the new moon occurred on a certain date, they would declare the rosh chodesh (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year, so a 12-month lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than a solar year and a 13-month lunar is about 19 longer than a solar year. The months drift around the seasons on such a calendar: on a 12-month lunar calendar, the month of Nissan, which is supposed to occur in the Spring, would occur 11 days earlier in the season each year, eventually occurring in the Winter, the Fall, the Summer, and then the Spring again. On a 13-month lunar calendar, the same thing would happen in the other direction, and faster.

To compensate for this drift, the Jewish calendar uses a 12-month lunar calendar with an extra month occasionally added. The month of Nissan occurs 11 days earlier each year for two or three years, and then jumps forward 30 days, balancing out the drift. In ancient times, this month was added by observation: the Sanhedrin observed the conditions of the weather, the crops and the livestock, and if these were not sufficiently advanced to be considered “spring,” then the Sanhedrin inserted an additional month into the calendar to make sure that Pesach (Passover) would occur in the spring (it is, after all, referred to in the Torah as Chag he-Aviv, the Festival of Spring!).

A year with 13 months is referred to in Hebrew as Shanah Me’uberet (pronounced shah-NAH meh-oo-BEH-reht), literally: a pregnant year. In English, we commonly call it a leap year. The additional month is known as Adar I, Adar Rishon (first Adar) or Adar Alef (the Hebrew letter Alef being the numeral “1” in Hebrew). The extra month is inserted before the regular month of Adar (known in such years as Adar II, Adar Sheini or Adar Beit).

In the fourth century, Hillel II established a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19 year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years. Adar I is added in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th years of the cycle. The current cycle began in Jewish year 5758 (the year that began October 2, 1997).

1997 was 5758 according to Judaism and this Metonic cycle began that year. The leap years or the extra month, Adar Bet is added just before Aviv the following year of 1998.

Now get out your charts that we have provided in the Prophecies of Abraham and begin to count the 19-year cycles. Aviv 1998 being year 1. When you do this 2016 is year 19 in the Metonic cycle and it is a leap year. An extra month will be added just before Aviv 2016. you can also go [to this link](#) to see that yes indeed an extra month is added in March 2016.

We have been telling you for some time now that in 2016 The Hebrew Calendar and the

Sighted Moon Calendar will be 30 days apart due to the fact the Barley will be ripe and Passover 2016 will be about March 24th.

There will also be a dark moon at this time and again in the fall at Sukkot. A dark moon warns us of famine coming.

We have also been telling you that the time when this calendar issue will be finally fixed is in 2030 when the two witnesses bring back the 13 tribes of Israel from their imminently impending captivity to keep Passover in Jerusalem.

But there is going to still be those who want to use the Hebrew Calendar and not the sighted moon calendar.

During WW II 6 Million Jews were slaughtered. WHY? They all used the Hebrew Calendar. They all went by the conjunction of the moon and they all went by the postponement rules. They all were keeping the Holy Days at the wrong time. It was the same as if they were keeping the Saturday Sabbath on Sunday. It is the wrong day to what Yehovah commanded them to keep.

And on top of this none of them were keeping the Sabbatical years.

So Judaism was not keeping the 4th commandment and for not doing so they were punished and the price for breaking the 4th commandment is death.

Exo 31:14 You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it *is* holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death. For whoever does *any* work in it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Six days may work be done, but on the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to Jehovah. Whoever does *any* work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. 16 Therefore the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, *for* an everlasting covenant. 17 It *is* a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever. For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.

They had broken the sign that identified them as Yehovah's. Yes, they kept the weekly Sabbath, but not the Holy Days and not the Sabbatical years.

They had become deceived.

“He will try to change their sacred festivals [feast days] and laws...” (Dan. 7:25 NLT).



Now let us look at what we are told in Revelation.

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who bore the man *child*. 14 And two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the serpent's face. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water like a flood after the woman, so that he might cause her to be carried away by the river. 16 And the earth helped the woman. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged over the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Here then is my question to you.

When the woman flees into the wilderness where she is protected for 3 1/2 years from Satan, who are these other people that Satan now makes war with who keep the commandments and the testimony of Yehshua?

Why did they not flee with the rest of the woman into the wilderness?

I say to you that they do not go because they are following the Jewish Hebrew Calendar with the postponement rules and the Metonic cycles of added leap years without regard to the barley being Aviv.

When you count out the Metonic cycle as we have now shown to you, the year 2017 is year one in the Metonic cycle. 2030 would then be the 14th year of this cycle and it is a forced leap year.

Passover 2030 will be about March 19 according to the Sighted moon calendar. Or at least it has the potential at this date. We will not know for sure until that very year. But because of the Metonic cycle, 2030 is the 14th year and a leap year, making Passover come on April 18 of 2030. Please do check out both of those links to the two different calendars for the same year with the same Holy Days on different dates.

We are given a very specific command about Passover. We are to be ready to flee and at this time Yehovah will judge.

Exo 12:11 And you shall eat of it this way, *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in a hurry. It *is* Jehovah's passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. I *am* Jehovah.

When one group eats Passover in 2030, they will then flee to the wilderness and they will be pursued by the army of the beast. When that army is swallowed by the earth, the beast then turns to make war on those gathering in Jerusalem for the Passover on April 18.

The two witnesses are killed during this time. They have caused the world trouble for the past 3 1/2 years. It is because of this trouble that Israel is brought back to the land from captivity. But just like Jacob, it is a deception to slaughter them all once again. This is why the woman flees when she sees the armies surrounding Jerusalem. But those coming late or those who do not see the armies and are going to keep the Passover according to the Hebrew calendar will be slaughtered as Revelation warns you.

After this, there will be no more calendar confusion. It will be the original sighted moon calendar based on the barley being Aviv. And those in the wilderness with the Messiah at Bozrah will be keeping the Holy Days at the right time and the Sabbath and the Sabbatical years.

Are You Going to Follow Man's Rules or Yehovah's Commandments? The Choice is Yours? Remember though, you must pay the price if you are wrong.

Migdal Eder & the Birth of Messiah

We first presented the following article in 2016 which was shown to us by Chad Wilhelm.

Just a few weeks ago we shared with you the deception of the Aleph Tav. How Satan has impersonated these two to lead people away from the truth. Today we are going to share with you another one of those truths that very few talk about and yet it makes so much sense and affirms what we already knew.

Satan has deceived the whole world. Everyone except you right. No, he has deceived the whole world.

Rev 12:7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

In Isaiah 14:12 we are told how Satan would even think to become like God.

“How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!
You said in your heart, I will
ascend to heaven; above the stars
of God I will set my throne on
high; I will sit on the mount of
assembly in the far reaches of the
north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.’

And it is in this method of being “LIKE” Yehovah that he has deceived the whole world and that includes all of us.

How many of you are now still keeping and celebrating Christmas, the birthday of Jesus the Messiah?



Yehshua said that Satan was the father of lies.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

And it is these lies that have been passed down to us from our fathers.

Jer 16:19 O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of distress, the nations will come to You from the ends of the earth, and they will say, “Our fathers inherited nothing but lies, worthless idols of no benefit at all.” 20 Can man make gods for himself? Such are not gods!...

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen.

Once we learn the truth about how our fathers have lied to us we want nothing to do with it all together. So we shun all activities surrounding the Christmas Story. But in so doing Satan has

again kept us from the truth. First in believing the lie and then in ignoring the truth as we stay away from the lies.

But the best lies are often told with a mixture of truth in them. Let us now search out the truth of the birth of Yehshua and understand it as it should be in the plan of Yehovah.

This article is presented by Chad and Marilyn Wilhelm, who shared it with me last fall (2015) and I have waited until now (2016) to share it with you. It fits perfectly with our teaching last week on the birth of Yehshua being on the Feast of Trumpets. Again stop and think. Mary had given birth and would be unclean for 40 days.

Lev 12:2Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, If a woman has conceived seed and has borne a male, then she shall be unclean seven days; as on the days of her menstrual impurity she shall be unclean. **3**And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **4**And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying thirty-three days. She shall touch no holy thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are fulfilled.

And the nursing baby Yehshua would have touched her in order to be breastfed and each time the baby touched the unclean Mary, the baby too would be unclean.

Lev 15:19And if a woman has an issue, *and* her issue in her flesh is blood, she shall be in her impurity seven days. And whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening. **20**And everything that she lies on in her impurity shall be unclean. Everything also that she sits on shall be unclean. **21**And whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe in water, and be unclean until the evening. **22**And whoever touches anything that she sat on, shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until the evening. **23**And if it *is* on the bed or on anything on which she sits, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until the evening.

So exactly how would the infant Yehshua be able to go into the Temple on the 8th Day of Sukkot to be circumcised as some teach you that His birth was on the 1st day of Sukkot? Just stop and think for a moment. It is impossible for the infant to go up to the Temple until at least 40 days after His birth. This is just another indicator we have that He was born on the Feast of Trumpets. More again on this next week. But this week I want to share this teaching from Chad.

The Greek and Hebrew fonts do not come across on this website and are shown as ????. So if you want them they are all on Chad's site which you [can link to at the end of the article.](#)

Migdal Eder & the Birth of Messiah



My sincere hope, brethren, is that by the end of this teaching, you will truly get a better picture of the birth of our Messiah rather than the traditional view that has become the norm passed down from the early Church Fathers. Tradition (not the Bible) says that Yeshua's birthplace was in a cave over which the Basilica of the Nativity was built in Bethlehem. According to Origen of Alexandria (185 – 254 CE), the Roman Emperor Constantine built a Basilica over this cave in the 4th Century at the request of his mother Helena. It was destroyed and the present basilica was built by Emperor Justinian in 530 AD. Origen of Alexandria wrote that it was generally accepted that Yeshua was born in a cave at Bethlehem which could be visited in his day. (*Origen of Alexandria, "Against Celsus" in Volume 1, Chapter 51.*)



There is no evidence that can be found within the Bible to support that claim! Let's turn to a familiar passage of scripture and see what clues we can uncover from the text.

Revisiting the Birth: Clues from the Text

Luk 2:1-20 “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him **in a manger**; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying **in a manger**. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying **in a manger**. And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.” {KJV} (**emphasis mine**)

In verses 7, 12, and 16 I have put in **bold** what the KJV has translated from the Greek Text. These are the words with the ‘Strong’s Concordance’ reference: “ **in^{G1722} a manger^{G5336} “** however, when one looks at this particular text through an actual Greek Interlinear there is a missing Greek word. Here is what the text looks like from the Interlinear: “ **??G1722 IN ??G3588 THE ?????G5336 MANGER** “ the Greek word **??G3588** is not translated as it should be— although it is of my opinion that the translators in an attempt to smooth out the text inserted “a” instead of “the”. Let’s now take a look at this interesting Greek word. According to the Thayer Greek Dictionary, this Greek word is defined as ‘the definite article’, “the” in its masculine, feminine or neuter gender...the demonstrative pronoun. Examples: “this”, “that”, or “these”. The next word that should be studied in this passage of Luke chapter 2 is “manger”. The Greek word here is **G5336 ??????** phatne? *fat’-nay* (from the Strong’s Concordance). This word comes from the Greek word **?????????** pateomai (to eat); a *crib* (for fodder): – manger or **stall**. Listed below are the Hebrew words that are most similar to the Greek word **??????** phatne? (these are also the Septuagint related words).

H18 ????? evus: a manger, **stall** (from H75 [abas] –to fodder, fatted, **stalled**)
H723 ????? urvah : a **herding place** for an animal

H1098 ?????? belil : feed, fodder

H7517

??? rephet: a **stall**

This word **G5336 ??????** phatne? could be translated as ‘manger’ but if we look into the ancient time and culture during Yeshua’s day, I’m of the opinion that this ‘manger’ was more of a stable or stall to house livestock. We will discuss this further in a bit.

Luke 2:15 “...Let us now go to Bethlehem...”

After the shepherds were told about the Messiah, how did they know where to go?

Luk 2:15-16 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Where would the shepherds have known to go in Bethlehem to find baby Yeshua? There were no directions provided... (more on this later as well).

What we know from the Bible about Micah 5:2 and Luke 2:1-20

Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem (Beit –lechem – ‘house of bread’– Micah 5:2). Luke records the birth place of Messiah as Bethlehem in Luke 2:11. Bethlehem is the city of David and of his father’s inheritance (1 Sa 16:4, 17:15, 20:6). Although the Brit Chadashah does not tell us where in Bethlehem Yeshua was born, the Tanakh does.

Location of Yeshua’s Birth

We are all familiar with this verse:

Mic 5:2 “And thou, Beit-Lechem Ephratah, Little to be among the chiefs of Judah! From thee to Me he cometh forth—to be ruler in Israel, And his comings forth *are* of old, From the days of antiquity.”

But do we go back and read the verses for context? Micah 4:1 – 5:4

Mic 4:1 “But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Mic 4:8 And thou, **O tower of the flock**, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem. Now why dost thou cry out aloud? *is there* no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail. Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go *even* to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies. Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion. But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. Mic 5:1 Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. 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. Therefore will he give them up, until the time *that* she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.”

To summarize: YHWH explains what it will be like in the millennial reign of Messiah (4:1 – 4:7).

Micah 4:8 – 5:4 explains what will happen before that day!

The significance of ‘Migdal Eder’

Mic 4:8 “And thou, O **tower** **ldgm** **of the flock** **rdü**, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”

H4026 aldgm / ldgm migda?l / migda?la?h BDB Definition:

Tower 1a) tower 1b) elevated stage, pulpit 1c) raised

bed

H1431 (ROOT WORD)ldg ga?dal BDB Definition: 1) to grow, become great or important, promote, make powerful, praise, magnify, do great things 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to grow up 1a2) to become great 1a3) to be magnified

What did the Sages of Israel think about Micah 4:8 and 5:1-2?

Targums: Micah 4:8 “And you, **O Messiah of Israel**, who has been hidden away because of the sins of the congregation of Zion, the kingdom shall come to you, and the former dominion shall be restored to the kingdom of the congregation of Jerusalem.”

Targums: Micah 5:1 “And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, you who were too small to be numbered among the thousands of the house of Judah, **from you shall come forth before me the Messiah**, to exercise dominion over Israel, he whose name was mentioned from of old, from ancient times.”

The sages of old understood Micah 4:8 and 5:1-2 to be about the coming Messiah!

Yeshua’s Birth at Migdal Eder

Where have we seen these words before? Migdal Eder?

Gen 35:16-21 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem. 20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that *is* the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day. 21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond (from) **tower of Eder [Migdal Eder]**.



RACHEL'S TOMB IN BETHLEHEM.

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Why is this significant? Because even the sages of old understood this passage of scripture was a prophecy concerning Messiah! They understood that Genesis 35:21 and Micah 4:8 were connected! According to Targum Jonathan (Jonathan Ben Uzziel) Genesis 35:21 is written this way:

Gen 35:2 “And Jakob proceeded and spread his tent beyond the tower of Eder, the place from whence, it is to be, the King Meshiha (Messiah) will be revealed at the end of the days.” (emphasis mine)

Shadow Picture of Messiah Yeshua

Just as the naming of Leah’s children reveals YHWH’s plan of Messiah: The Messiah came as Elohim’s **Son** [Reuben – ‘see, a son’]. He was **heard** [Simeon – to hear] by some and **joined to** [Levi – joined] by others. We should **praise** him [Judah – praised] because he paid the **wages** [Issachar – wages] of sin. Soon he will come to **dwell** [Zebulun – habitation] with us and He will **rule/judge** [Dinah – Judgment] over the whole world.

Also note how Rachel’s children are thematically connected to Messiah Yeshua:

Joseph: bread man, suffering servant, exalted to the right hand of Pharaoh, savior of Egypt

Yeshua: bread of life, suffering servant, exalted to the right hand of the Father, savior of the world.

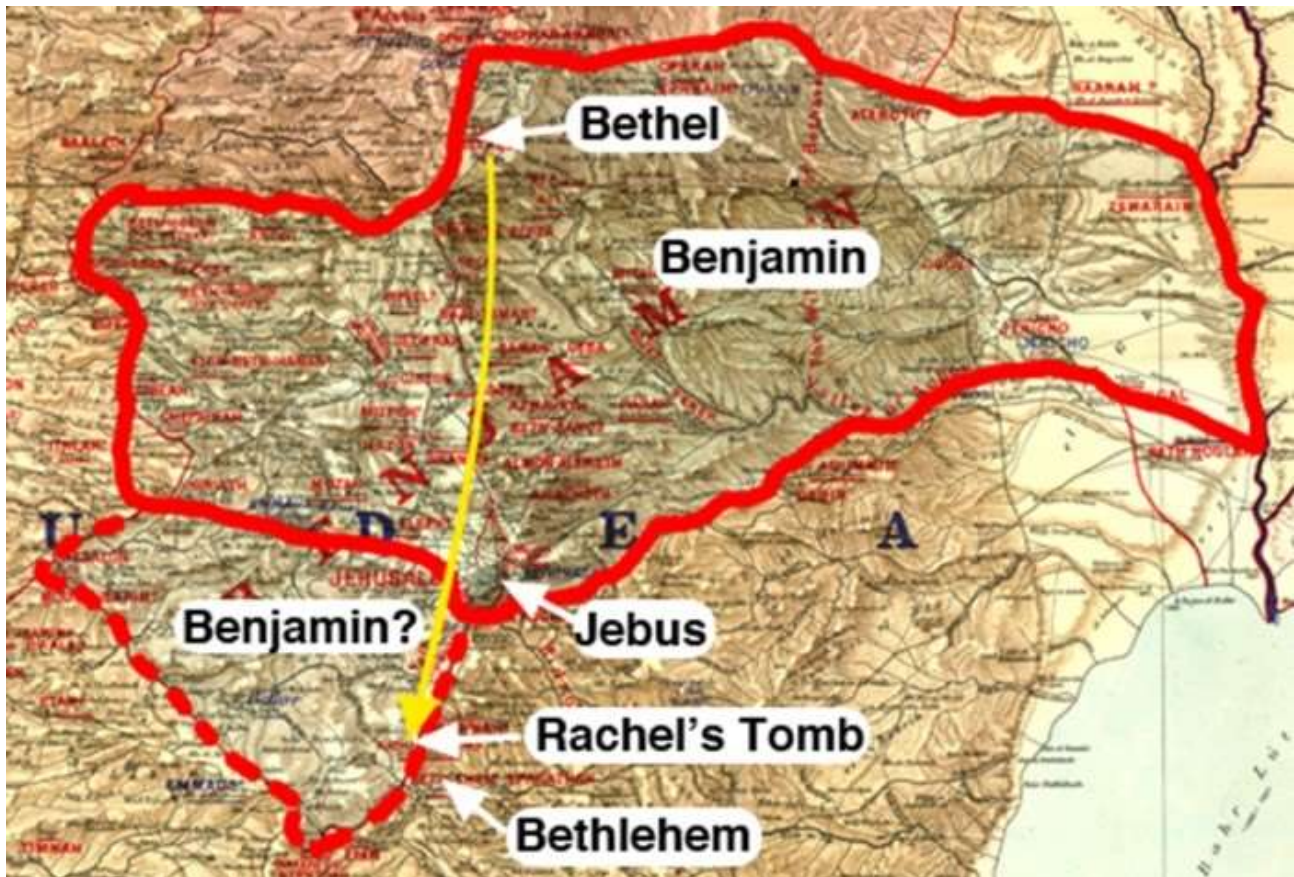
What about Benjamin?

How is Rachel's other son Benjamin a shadow picture of Messiah [thematically related]?

Gen 35:18-19,21 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni (**son of sorrow**): but his father called him Benjamin (**son of right hand**). And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem. 21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond (from) **tower of Eder [Migdal Eder]**. Messiah was also born in Bethlehem, at Migdal Eder. He came the first time as a suffering servant, a **son of sorrows** (Isaiah 53:4). Yeshua now sits at the **RIGHT HAND** of the Father (Mark 16:19)... Our Heavenly Father will send him again a second time to return to put down iniquity and evil, set up the Kingdom, and rule/reign for a thousand years (Rev 19 & 20)!

Location of Migdal Eder

After Jacob left Bethel he came to **Migdal Eder** (the tower of the flock) and there Rachel began hard labour and as she delivered Benjamin she died and was buried there in "...*Ephratah which is Bethlehem*" (Gen. 35:19). After burying Rachel, Jacob moved his flocks beyond **Migdal Eder** (tower of Eder/Flock). This would pinpoint the location as being near (to the North) to what is present-day Bethlehem. This establishes that **Migdal Eder**, "the tower of the flock" was in Bethlehem.



Keep in mind that the area which is called Bethlehem in biblical times covered a larger area than does present-day Bethlehem and Migdal Eder was in that city, or just on the outskirts of

the city. The oldest tradition based upon Gen 35 and 48 places ancient Bethlehem Ephratah northeast of the current day city and about 4 miles south of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Other sources also suggest that Migdal Eder or the tower of the flock is a location on the outskirts of Bethlehem. The LXX has the location between Bethel and Rachel's tomb. Eusebius locates it 1.9km east of Bethlehem (3.Eusebius Onomasticon 43.12) and others with a place called Siyan al Ghannam SW of Jerusalem (4.Avraham Negev: Archeological encyclopaedia of the holy land pg 339)

This puts Migdal Eder very close to the modern day marker of rbk lhkr (Kever Rakhel)- the tomb of Rachel. Isn't it interesting that it is the third holiest site in Judaism? Our brother Judah continues to pray for Rachel and her children (tribes of Yosef and Benyamin)!

The Significance of Migdal Eder and the Holy Temple

Now that we have begun to uncover some clues about where Yeshua was born, let's see if we can incorporate anything to do with the Holy Temple and the Temple services. When the Temple stood, there was the twice-daily offering of a male lamb instructed in the Torah called the Tameed (continual) burnt offering (Num 28:3). It was the first and last offering of the day in the Holy Temple. This offering was specific in that it could only be a male lamb without spot or blemish. It had to be perfect, or Tameem (complete, perfect).

According to the Mishnah (Baba K. 7.7), expressly forbids the keeping of flocks throughout the land of Israel, except in the wilderness and the only flocks otherwise kept, would be those for the Temple-services (Baba K. 80a) [*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Edersheim pg131*]

Who were the 'Shepherds'?

Luke 2:1-20 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

"...and, accordingly, that the shepherds, who watched over them, were not ordinary shepherds." [*The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Edersheim pg 131*]

More than likely, these shepherds resided near Bethlehem were none other than the shepherds from 'Migdal Eder' who were well aware what the sages of old taught that the Messiah might well be announced from 'Migdal Eder' in Bethlehem. There is a good possibility that these Shepherds were either 'Levites' or designated Shepherds specifically trained to watch over sheep for Temple Services. I believe that they would have cared for and inspected each newborn lamb of any defects or blemishes and it was these 'Levites' (in my opinion) that declared whether or not these 'newborn' clean animals were acceptable for Temple service.

The sign: a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a THE manger

The Greek word used here for 'swaddling cloths' is sparganoos? *spar-gan-o'-o* G4683 [Strong's] From sparganon (a *strip*; from a derivative of the base of G4682 meaning to *strap* or *wrap* with strips); to *swathe* (an infant after the Oriental custom): – wrap in

swaddling clothes. It is interesting that this Greek word is used because it comes from the Greek word ?????????? sparasso? G4682, a verb, meaning to convulse or tear.

Continuing on with the Strong's definition: A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: prolongation from **spairo** (to grasp, apparently strengthened from G4685 through the idea of spasmodic contraction).

What I am getting at here is that this Greek word translated as 'swaddling cloths' was more applicable to preventing a newborn animal or baby from scratches or injury. To further emphasise my point, In the book "The Chronological Gospels" by Michael Rood, Rood comments on the swaddling cloths from Luke 2:7: "A child of the King and potential heir to the throne was salted and swaddled as part of the initial dedication of the child and in recognition of the parents' responsibility to raise the child according to the straight path

Eze 16:4 And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

Soon after birth, the child was washed with salted water and bound in the swaddling cloths with all of his limbs made straight...Swaddling cloths were made from priests' garments that were no longer serviceable. This cloth was used for the wicks in the Temple menorah and for swaddling the sons of kings..." (pg. 52).

Harold Smith , in "The Birth- Revisited" writes:

Approaching this subject from the Hebrew perspective will show, that while swaddling "cloths" were used in the handling of newborn babies, swaddling "bands" (as referenced in Job 38:9 (and Eze 16:4)) were used for subduing animals prior to sacrifice. These "swaddling bands" were strips of gauze-like cloth used to restrain a lamb being prepared for inspection before sacrifice to prevent thrashing that they not "blemish" themselves.

Could Yeshua, the 'Lamb of Elohim, that takes away the sins of the world' have been born at the birthing place (Tower of the Flock/ Migdal Eder) that was used to bring forth newborn lambs destined for the Temple? The place where the shepherds used to inspect the lambs of any blemish to determine if they could be used for Temple sacrifices? Not only the 'Tameed' offering (continual burnt offering), but also the **Passover lambs** for Israel and the High Priest? Could Yeshua have been wrapped in the clothing of the garments of Temple Levites?

"...Let us know go to Bethlehem..." (continued)

How did the shepherds know where to go? Harold Smith writes:

“There was no need for the angels to give these shepherds directions to the birth place because they already knew. These were the men who raised sacrificial lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple. When the angelic announcement came, they already knew exactly where to go, as Luke 2 indicates, for the sign of **the manger** could only mean the manger at the base of the Tower of the Flock, as it is found in the original Greek wording of Luke 2:7,12 and 16! You cannot explain the meaning or direction of the sign they were given or their response unless you have the right manger (stall), the right shepherds and the proper Hebraic perspective.”

Extra Thoughts...

Messiah Yeshua, who is The Passover Lamb, came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey

Rabbinic tradition has the High Priest riding on a donkey going to and from Bethlehem (perhaps Migdal Eder?) with his Passover Lamb back into Jerusalem through the ‘Sheep gate’- why is this significant? In the book of Nehemiah we read the following:

Neh 3:1 “Then **Eliashib [H475]** the **High Priest** rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.” *[This was the 1st gate listed in Jerusalem] (emphasis mine)*

The meaning of Eliashib is a contraction of two words, ‘el’ and ‘shuv’, meaning El (God) will restore.

Petri Paavola, in his research of “Jerusalem’s gates spiritual meaning” writes the following: “The high priest Eliashib with his brethren and priests built the Sheep Gate and set up its doors. This is the first gate mentioned. The spiritual meaning of the Sheep Gate is that the high priest was building it and that through the Sheep Gate lambs and sheep were brought to the temple, in which they were offered.”

Messiah Yeshua is the High Priest of the renewed Covenant, who is the Lamb, who was offered for the sake of our sins. The Spiritual meaning of the Sheep Gate is the death and offering of the Lamb (Messiah), through which sacrifice, blood and resurrection bring us forgiveness of sins and redemption. According to Nehemiah 3:1, the High Priest was setting up the doors of the Sheep Gate, which means that He is the Door of the sheep. What did Yeshua proclaim? John 10:7 “...**I am the door of the sheep.**”

*[Side Note] In my opinion, Yeshua came in through the sheep gate, ‘destined’ to be ‘offered’. Yeshua was hoisted on the execution tree at the same time the 1st Tameed offering was offered up in the Temple (the 3rd hour) and after the last Tameed offering at the 9th hour, Yeshua said “It is finished”... dying on that tree to **redeem us** of our sins (and to **restore us back to the Father.**) Just as Eliashib (meaning El will restore), the High Priest rebuilt the door to the ‘Father’s House’ –so too, does our High Priest Messiah Yeshua, who is the door, **restores us back to the Father !!!**

Putting all the clues together

What we know is that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2). He was revealed from Migdal Eder (Mic 4:8). This Tower more than likely laid close to the town near the road to **Jerusalem** (old Hebron road – Hwy 60 in modern-day Israel) and not far away from where the Tomb of Rachel is located (current day). The Mishnah tells us that the flocks which pastured there were destined for Temple sacrifices (Shekinah 7:4). The Mishnah tells us that the shepherds (who I believe were Levites) watching over them were specifically trained to inspect the newborn lambs for any defects. This same location where newborn lambs were born and inspected, destined for sacrifice at the Holy Temple, is the same place that Messiah Yeshua was 'born'. He was 'inspected' to be unblemished, and destined to be offered for us!!! The Shepherds (Levites) would have known the exact place to go look for this 'sign' at none other than Migdal Eder.

Here's what I find fascinating about all this. First, it places Yeshua's birth in the traditional location for Passover lambs to be born. Fitting, since He became the Passover Lamb of Elohim who took away the sins of the world. Second, it explains how the shepherds knew where to go to find the newborn baby — and why being wrapped in swaddling clothes would be a significant clue. Finally, it explains why those shepherds were notified as it was their holy calling to certify Temple-approved & Passover lambs upon birth.

Something else to think about...

Think of Messiah, as a newborn baby, wrapped or bound at the birthing place of the lambs 'destined' for Temple-Sacrifice. The Shepherds (who I believe were of the Levitical Priesthood), who had heard of the sage teachings of Migdal Eder, the Prophecy of Micah 4:8, 5:2 and Genesis 35:21 and the place where Messiah would appear. Think of all the connections of Messiah from his birth until his crucifixion... How much deeper can we draw from this than the Traditional 'Nativity' scene that so many people have come to believe?

Shalom & blessings, Chad www.returnoftheremnant.com

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs0AAC1bJbl>

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Jerusalem Talmud,

Babylonian Talmud,

Mishnah

Targum Jonathan

KJV



I, Jacob Howard, wrote Dr. Charlie Dyer, who is the speaker on the Land and the Book Radio, a question about Migdal-Eder, mentioned in Micah 4:8. This was Dr. Dyer's response.

Jacob,

Thank you for your e-mail, and thanks as well for your kind words! Denny and I both appreciate the privilege God has given us to serve Him in this way. You have encouraged us both!

As far as Migdal Eder is concerned, there is no universal identification of the site. But I do believe it was a real site. The best thing I've read on the subject is from Alfred Edersheim's *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. (You can find his complete work online at Google Books.) I'll include his quotation here, and then I'll follow it with a few observations. (I'll also highlight the key point he makes in the quote.)

But as we pass from the sacred gloom of the cave [i.e., he was just talking about the birth of Jesus in a cave] out into the night, its sky all aglow with starry brightness, its loneliness is peopled, and its silence made vocal from heaven. There is nothing now to conceal, but much to reveal, though the manner of it would seem strangely incongruous to Jewish thinking. And yet Jewish tradition may here prove both illustrative and helpful. That the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, was a settled conviction. Equally so was the belief, that He was to be revealed from Migdal Eder, "the tower of the flock." This Migdal Eder was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks which pastured on the barren sheep ground beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the Mishnah leads to the conclusion, that the flocks, which pastured there, were destined for Temple-sacrifices, and, accordingly, that the shepherds, who watched over them, were not ordinary shepherds. The latter were under the ban of Rabbinism, on account of their necessary isolation from religious ordinances, and their manner of life, which rendered strict legal observance unlikely, if not absolutely impossible. The same Mishnaic passage also leads us to infer, that these flocks lay out all the year round, since they are spoken of as in the fields thirty days before the Passover—that is, in the month of February, when in Palestine the average rainfall is nearly greatest. Thus, Jewish tradition in some dim manner apprehended the first revelation of the Messiah from that Migdal Eder, where shepherds watched the Temple-flocks all the year round. Of the deep symbolic significance of such a coincidence, it is needless to speak.

—Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, pp. 186-87

If Edersheim is correct (and I believe he is), the location for Migdal Eder would be north of Bethlehem and near the old road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. (That road is the old "Hebron road" one drives on between Jerusalem and Bethlehem today!) I believe this puts the location somewhere between the Jewish kibbutz of Ramat Rachel and Bethlehem, probably just to the west of Har Homa. There used to be an actual sheepfold in this area where I would take our groups but, sadly, it has been covered over by the modern road that now goes to Har Homa.

A key point here. Edersheim indicates that Migdal Eder was an actual spot, but he is not saying it was a town or village. Rather, the name means "Watchtower of the flock" which seems to identify it as a specific pasture area for sheep. And the sheep that grazed here were those specifically destined for Temple sacrifice. In that sense, the shepherds keeping watch over the temple sacrifices were the ones to whom God announced the birth of the ultimate "sacrificial lamb."

I'm attaching a screenshot from Google Earth that might be of help in identifying the location for Migdal Eder. Note that Ramat Rachel is at the top of the picture and Bethlehem is at the bottom. The road running along the left side of the picture is the old Hebron Road, and Homat Shemu'el/Har Homa is just to the right of center in the picture. Based on Edersheim's description, I would place Migdal Eder almost in the center of the picture...north of Bethlehem, just to the west of Har Homa, and east of the road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. Since the word means "tower of the flock" it is likely a high spot in this area where sheep would graze. The hills right around (or right at) Har Homa are probably the best possible location.

I hope this is helpful!

Charlie

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