



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - December 25, 2011

<b>Sermon</b> Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled: <i>“Favorite Christmas Traditions”</i> Luke 2:1-20 by Bob Shank  Things I want to remember about this sermon...	Monday 12/26/11 Luke 2:1-3  Historically this was not a happy time for the people of Bethlehem. No matter where they now lived they had to travel back to their hometown and register with the Roman government.
	Tuesday 12/27/11 Matthew 2:6  This verse in Matthew’s gospel is the fulfillment of Micah’s prophecy in the Old Testament. In fact, these are the very words of Micah as recorded in his book. The connecting rods between the birth of Jesus and the Old Testament prophecies is strong. The problem is that old promises are often forgotten or the people get so involved with their struggles, that they fail to see the fulfillment of these promises even when they are right in front of their eyes! Keep the eyes of your soul open today. What Godly promises are being fulfilled right now?
	Wednesday 12/28/11 Micah 5:7-9  Sometimes things get worse before they get better. And sometimes we begin to doubt the promises given to us because they seem so unlikely and even downright impossible. The people of Israel would experience many bad times and even many tragedies before the promise of the Messiah would be fulfilled to them. Hope and endurance were required. Reminders of God’s promise also helped when times got tough. What do you do when things get tough in your life? Do you give up hope or do you trust in God? Are you trusting God today?



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<p>Things to do this week in response to the sermon...</p> <p><i>What customs or traditions do I celebrate at Christmas?</i></p> <p><i>What makes Christmas special to me?</i></p>	<p>Thursday 12/29/11 Isaiah 40:27-31</p> <p>“...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” There is great strength for those who wait for the Lord! Do you feel this strength in your life? Are you waiting patiently for the Lord today? Oftentimes we get ahead of ourselves and even ahead of God, but when we wait for the Lord there is unmatched strength to be found. May you experience the strength of the Lord today in your life!</p>
<p><i>How can I spread some Christmas cheer to someone else this year?</i></p>	<p>Friday 12/30/11 Micah 7:14</p> <p>This time of year always brings with it some precious memories from days of old. Traditions like, time spent with family and special little things that make this season so much brighter and more meaningful to me. While I do miss the people who created these memories for me, like grandparents, dad, aunts, uncles, and many others; I know that every single one of God’s promises is going to be fulfilled. The hope and trust we can have in God helps us manage the hardships life life. Trust in God today!</p>
	<p>Saturday 12/31/11 Jeremiah 33:14-16</p> <p>“The days are surely coming, says the Lord,, when I will fulfill the promise I made...” Today is Christmas Eve--the eve of the fulfillment God promised long, long ago. The wait is almost over. Do you sense the anticipation and the excitement? Like a child waiting for the arrival of Christmas morning, we Christians should be expecting the fulfillment of God’s promises in our life today! The time is nigh, Christmas is almost here. Do you feel the excitement? Are you excited about what God is doing in our world in your life?</p>