

December 24, 2023 AM— Pastor Kevin Olivier

Micah 5:1-5 –“The Eternal Ruler’s Coming”

- A. WCF 1, section 5 gives us “arguments whereby [Scripture] doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God.”
- B. The prophecy of Micah largely foretold judgment because of the sins of God’s people. → **1:3-7**
- C. This prophecy also extended hope. In **4:10**, He told them that while in captivity: **“There you will be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.”**
- D. **Micah 5** opens with siege being laid against Israel. →**v1**

Embrace God’s salvation through the eternal Ruler of Israel	I. THE MESSIAH’S BIRTH II. THE MESSIAH’S MINISTRY
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I. **THE MESSIAH’S BIRTH** →**v2**

- A. The place of His birth seemed insignificant to some: **“Bethlehem Ephrathah.”**
 - 1. Bethlehem was **“too little to be [named] among the clans of Judah”** yet very significant in God’s sight. Although small, it has a rich history.
 - a. Bethlehem was the hometown of King David.
 - 1) **1 Sam 17** tells us that **“David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse.”**
 - 2) The original name for the town of Bethlehem was originally Ephrath.¹
 - b. Bethlehem is the town where Samuel anointed David to be king.²
 - c. This same town would be home to David’s greater Son who was also David’s Lord.
 - 1) David was forgiven of his sins as he looked forward to the Messiah yet to come.
 - 2) We are forgiven of our sins as we look back to Jesus Christ who has already come.
 - 2. In **v2** God through Micah foretold, **“from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.”**
 - a. The Messiah— the **“Ruler in Israel”**— would be eternal. The end of **v2** says **“His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”**
 - b. The eternal Son of God left the glories of heaven to take on flesh to veil His glory.
 - b. Michah’s prophecy fits with what Jesus said about His pre-incarnate existence with the Father from all eternity in **Jn 17:5** when He prayed, **“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”**
- B. The promised Messiah or Ruler to be born was a fulfillment of God’s promise to our first parents in the garden after they fell into sin. In **Gen 3:15**, God told Satan, **“And I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your seed & her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, & you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

¹ This is mentioned in the record of Rachel’s death and burial in **Gen 35:19**.

² See 1 Samuel 16.

II. THE MESSIAH'S MINISTRY- → **v4**

A. The Messiah will come as Shepherd.

1. Jesus coming as the good Shepherd is in fulfillment of **Ezek 34** wherein God Himself promised that He Himself would come and shepherd His people.
2. In **Jn 10**, Jesus said, **"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep"**

B. In the Messiah's reign, Micah said He would bear **"the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God" (v4).**

1. → **Jn 5:17-29**
2. Speaking of the coming Messiah, **Micah 5:4** says, **"He will be great to the ends of the earth."**
 - a. Beginning with Jesus and His twelve apostles, the Christian faith spread throughout most of the planet.
 - b. The job of Christian missions is not complete until God has gathered His elect from every tribe, tongue, and nation.
 - c. **Rom 11:25** tells us that **"a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."**

C. **Micah 5:5** says **"This One will be our peace."**

1. This fits with the title given to the coming Messiah as the **"prince of Peace"** in **Isa 9:6**.
2. Jesus came into the world to give us peace not as the world gives.
3. The peace our Messiah offers is most importantly peace with God through the reconciling work of Jesus Christ.

Review, further application, & conclusion: