

The King from Bethlehem

Micah 5:1-15

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Micah is a prophet who was a contemporary to Isaiah. Ministering mainly to the southern Kingdom of Judah, but gave prophecies also concerning the northern Kingdom of Israel.

His name, in full form is Micaihu, which means, “**Who is like God?**” His name itself is a challenge to other gods.

To Micah we owe a great deal because he gives the world one of the most significant prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. He is the one who tells us that **Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It was to Micah chapter 5 that the advisors of Herod turned when asked where the Kings of the Jews was to be born.**

We now look that very prophecy ourselves and gain insight from the context.

This one who was to be born in Bethlehem was to be much more than a baby – He was to be the ruler of Israel.

There is some of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled.

The application of the prophecy is global and at the same time personal. These are the insights from the prophetic words that give us hope.

These, then, are the lessons for us regarding the King from Bethlehem.

I. He is the Ageless One

A. From the days of eternity

Verse 2

- This is really an amazing prophecy that speaks of the everlasting Messiah.

Illus – This would have been one of the verses that Paul would have used to prove that Jesus was God.

- **This should have shaken Herod’s advisors. The One in Micah 5 is born?**
- 4:12, but they did not understand the purpose of the Lord.

B. Yet born in Bethlehem

- Bethlehem would be considered an insignificant town.
- **But this is a principle of the Lord; that the mighty come from the small.**

I Corinthians 1:27, “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.”

Illus – Within one generation of Jesus, Christianity had touched all the known world. How? Because the Christians were a transformed people.

C. He will be great to the ends of the earth

- Jesus did not stay in Bethlehem.

- We shouldn't either.

Illus- Some people visit Jesus once a year in Bethlehem. They want to keep Jesus as a baby. He is much safer as a baby.

- **But this prophecy says that He will be great even to the ends of the earth.**

Psalm 72:8, "May he also rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."

II. He Will Arise and Shepherd His People

A. He will stand

Vs 4

- The word in Hebrew means, "To take a stand," to "stand firm."
- **He will take a stand in our aid.**
- This is contrast to sitting.
- When Stephen was being stoned, he looked up into heaven and saw the Lord standing.

Acts 7:55-56, "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'"

B. In the strength of the Lord

Vs 4

- Literally, meaning in the strength of Jehovah.

Illus – Moses carried the staff that was used in many of the miracles. It represented the power of God with Him. But Jesus IS the staff of God, He doesn't just carry a staff – He is the staff of God – God does His powerful miracles through Jesus.

- **And that power is for the purpose of watching over or "Shepherding his flock."**
- **You are in His care.**

John 10:27-30 – No one can take us out of His hand.

C. In the Majesty of the name

Vs 4

- "In the name" has two meanings...
- Doing something in the place of or representing someone else.
- Or, it means, doing something in the power of the one who sent you.

John 17:11-12, "Holy Father, keep them in your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as we are. While I was with them I kept them in your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them."

- "In the majesty" also is important; it refers to the fact that what He carries out in our behalf will be as high as the name of God itself.

Psalm 93:1-2, "The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity."

III. He is Our Peace

A. By deliverance

- Specifically, the prophecy refers to the deliverance from the siege of Jerusalem under King Hezekiah.
- **To us, in means that God is our deliverer. It is to Him and Him only that we should cry in times of trouble.**

Psalm 107: 6, 13, 19, 28, and 43 – The deliverance of the Lord.

- **And He is our peace by breaking down the walls that divide.**

Ephesians 2:14, “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”

B. By breaking the back of worldliness

Vs 12-14

- There is a day yet to come when the Lord will deal strongly with the world and all its temptation.

Revelation 18:1-5 – The destruction of Babylon

- **If this is the way the Lord will be toward such things, why would we want part of it now?**

Illus – When Christ died on the cross, He broke the back of sin, because the power of it has been destroyed.

The chains have been broken, why keep them on our feet? The prison no longer has authority over us, why should we stay when the doors have been unlocked?

C. By the truth of His Word (Vs 7)

- The dew is an expression in scripture that refers to the words of God giving life to men.

Deuteronomy 32:2, “Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb.”

- **But it is also a reference here to the influence that the remnant will have on the world.**
- **Having been changed by God’s Word, we are to then teach it to those who are without hope.**

Conclusion

The prophecy is about Jesus. Without Him, there is no hope for the world. But because of Him, there is hope for each one of us.