

Micah 5:2

Born in Bethlehem

Text: Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Micah declared that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. The name Micah means, "Who is like Jehovah."
- B. He was a Morasthite - meaning that he was from the village of Moresa in the southern part of Judah near the border of the land of the Philistines (cf. 1:14).
- C. Micah prophesied around 725 BC - contemporary with both Hosea and Isaiah.
- D. His message emphasized the justice of God (like Amos), the love of God (like Hosea), and the promise of God (like Isaiah).
- E. In less than 20 years after his prophecy, the northern kingdom of Israel would be taken captive by Assyria.
- F. Thus, much of his prophecy is directed as a warning toward Judah.
- G. Outline:
 1. Micah 1 - 2 - Judgment on Israel and Judah
 2. Micah 3 - 5 - Present Punishment and Future Hope
 3. Micah 6 - 7 - God's Controversy with Israel

II. THE MESSIAH: BORN IN BETHLEHEM (MICAH 5:2)

- A. The statement of Micah 5:2 comes in the midst of a passage dealing with the future hope for Israel (Micah 4 - 5).
 1. Micah 4:1-8 - The Future Mountain of the Lord's House
 2. Micah 4:9 - 5:1 - The Present Trouble for Israel and Judah
 3. Micah 5:2-15 - The Future Victory of the People of God
- B. The word "but" introduces a contrast and brings the prophet's message back to the future.
- C. Out of Bethlehem Ephrathah would come a ruler who would give victory and peace to God's faithful remnant.
 1. The name "Bethlehem" means, "House of Bread."
 2. The name "Ephrathah" means, "Fruitful or fruitfulness."
 3. This town was the ancestral home of King David.
 4. However, by its outward appearance it did not seem worthy of such an honor.

Prophecy of Jesus

5. It certainly did not appear to be the kind of place that the Messiah would be born!
 6. Yet, from this small town the true King of Israel would come.
- D. Note that the One who would “come forth” would do so “unto Me (God)” – the Messiah would be born to accomplish the will and purpose of Jehovah.
- E. The great paradox of the verse is that the One who would come forth had been going forth eternally!
1. This is a statement of the incarnation.
 2. Jesus is God – therefore, He is eternal (cf. John 1:1-3).
 3. Yet, He would be born as a man – thus, coming forth at a specific time in history.
 4. He is both God and man!
- F. Obviously, this prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus (Matthew 2:1-6; John 7:40-43).

III. THE MESSIAH: THE SON OF GOD

(ISAIAH 9:6-7)

- A. Another prophecy concerning the birth of the Messiah was given by Isaiah.
- B. A child, a son, would be born unto us – indicating the name Immanuel meaning, “God with us” (cf. 7:14; Matthew 1:23).
- C. He would serve as a ruler (cf. 22:21-22; Revelation 3:7).
- D. He is *Wonderful* – “the marvel of the ages, the full revelation of” God
- E. He is *Counselor* – King of kings; bringer of wisdom and peace
- F. He is *The Mighty God* – Deity, divine (cf. 10:21; Jeremiah 23:6)
- G. He is *The Everlasting Father* – Eternal Creator, Protector and Sustainer
- H. He is *The Prince of Peace* – A ruler who establishes true peace
- I. His is an eternal kingdom of peace and justice (righteousness).
- J. God’s own zeal (jealousy for His name) would make certain that His promise was fulfilled.
- K. The man born in Bethlehem is also God, the Savior of the world!