

Micah 5:1–5a

¹ Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us;
They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth
are from of old, From everlasting.”

³ Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.

⁴ And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the
name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends
of the earth;

⁵ And this One shall be peace.

*“The Place of Messiah’s Birth”
Micah 5:1-5a*

INTRO:

Our journey must begin in **Matthew 2**. You remember how the Magi came to see Jesus. *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’”* Herod the Great was the Roman puppet in Judah. His response was predictable. *“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”* (Matthew 2:1–6).

When the Magi appeared, Herod knew right away they were looking for the Messiah. He also knew where to lay his hands on the information they needed. It would be in the Bible. Herod the great summoned the scribes and the chief priests, the resident scriptural experts, and asked where the Messiah would be born. They read to Herod from the prophet Micah. Today, we will explore this prophecy of where our Lord would be born. Our text is found in **Micah 5:1-5a**.

- I. The Immediate Setting (v. 1)*
- II. God's Promised Messiah (v. 2)*
- III. How He Shall Reign (v. 3-5a)*

I. The Immediate Setting (v. 1)

Micah 5:1 *“Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; they will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.”*

A. Because Israel and Judah would not stop turning away from the living God to serve dead idols, God dealt them a great humiliation. Micah used the **“now”** three times in this context to announce judgment.

B. If this is the great siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar the result is the removal of the kings who were from the line of David, but who were ungodly. It appeared for all intents and purposes that David's line was cut off. God had put an end to the Davidic covenant. Israel was without hope. Are we to despair?

II. God's Promised Messiah (v. 2)

Micah 5:2 *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting”*

A. Where will He be born? He will be born in Bethlehem, the little town in the district of Ephratha. Notice the Messiah long promised will not be born in Jerusalem, “the city of David.” He will not be born as expected in the palace of a non-Davidic king who sits on the throne of Israel. Rather, He will be born in the small town a mile and a half away where David was born.

B. Our LORD spoke what He did to bring us back to **1 Samuel 16** and David's anointing. Micah wrote, quoting the LORD, **“Yet out of you [Bethlehem] shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel.”**

1 Samuel 16:1 *“Now the LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.’”*

Just as David was a king for the LORD's purpose, so this greater Son born in Bethlehem would be God's King.

C. So, Messiah would be born not in David's city, Jerusalem, but in David's town, Bethlehem. Messiah will be more than just another king. He would have ancient even eternal roots.

III. How He Shall Reign (v. 3-5a)

Micah 5:3-5a *“Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; And this One shall be peace”*

A. Can you see the Jews rubbing their hands and saying, *“All right, God will send this king right away.”* Before Messiah is born, Israel will be in bondage.

v.3a *“Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth.”*

This deliverance will be future. It will still look bad for a while until the Messiah is born. When the time is right God will send forth His Messiah, a woman shall be with child and shall bring forth a son.

B. Now the prophecy jumps the first advent to the time of Christ’s return.

vs.3b - 4 *“Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For NOW He shall be great To the ends of the earth.”*

When Messiah shall reign, He will be an enormously successful king. He will rule over God’s people. He will be God’s great shepherd king. Our Lord uses this image repeatedly to visualize God’s love and care for His people. When Messiah comes, all God’s people will be secure. He will rule in the power and majesty of God because He will be God in human flesh.

C. Finally, *“And this One shall be peace.”* This almost sounds like **Ephesians 2:12-14a.**

“That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.”

In Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah who was born on Christmas Day, died on a Cross for our sin, was buried, and raised again from the dead is our peace with God (salvation). Do we know Him?

He is also the key to our living a life of peace from God. He is the sovereign controller of all things. Micah described it as He will be great to the End of the Earth. Everything will be under His command. Do we have this peace in our lives? Are we trusting Him in our day to day existence?