

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

## Micah 5: 1-6

- Micah's prophecy of the birth of Christ: central promise of the book.
- Micah prophesies with detailed accuracy the birth of Christ: 700 BC
- This prophecy was so well known that Herod's wise men pointed to it
- It was the main message God gave to His prophet to give to Israel

### I. O Blessed Town of Bethlehem

- Significance of insignificant Bethlehem – Bethlehem: House of Bread
  - “Ephrathah” means bountiful. God will provide bountifully from her
- 1) God's way of salvation is converse to the expectation of people
  - 2) God delights to use unlikely instruments so as to better show His glory
  - 3) The true hope of believers lies in God's sovereign grace

### II. The Promise of a Mighty Savior

- 1) The promised Savior is mighty in His Person
- 2) The promised Savior is mighty in His Calling
- 3) The promised Savior is mighty in His Ministry

### III. A Glorious Plan Unveiled

- Vs 3 God hands Israel over to their idolatry to ready them for Messiah
- Micah likens Israel's sorrow to a woman in the travail of child birth
- The “therefore” in vs. 3 is related directly to Christ's appearance
- It also refers to salvation of the Gentiles (John 10:16; Eph 2:13-14)
- Vs 5-6 point to Christ's raising up shepherds: they protect the sheep
- Unlike Israel's failed leadership: they wield God's Word faithfully
- is the second penitential psalm (Ps 6; 38, 51, 102; 130)
- The psalm probably should be interpreted with Ps 51