

Messianic Prophecy #36:

Micah 5:1-5a

BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH

I. The historical context & summary of Micah's message:

God hates orthodox worship where our hearts are not in it.
Worship from hearts that are morally and ethically bankrupt.

From people who have made Him in their image as a god they can control.

II. Chapter 4: the future Hope and immediate despair

4:1-8: The Hope of the Kingdom to come

- It will be the center of the world's attention (v1),
- ruled by God (v2),
- with international peace (v3),
- and security (v4).
- This is a unique work of God (v5),
- who will re-gather His people (v6),
- and rule over them *forever* in Zion — (v7),
- Jerusalem, that will be restored (v8).

4:9-13: But now you are in a hopeless situation.
Conflicting message:

You will be carried away to Babylon where the Lord will eventually rescue you (v9-10).

Right now you are facing an overwhelming enemy (Sennacherib of Assyria), but I will deliver you (v11-13). However, Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed and you will be carried away into exile by Babylon (counter-intuitive because Assyria is the current threat)

III. Chapter 5:1-5a: the future Shepherd-King and Israel's pathetic weakness

5:1 Sennacherib's insults to Hezekiah
(II Chron 32:9-19)?

5:2 BUT: Hope is God's _____ in Israel's _____.

A. From tiny Bethlehem the mighty Ruler
Bethlehem simply supplied crops and sheep for Jerusalem

- The Reigning One
- Supernatural: origins from ancient times, even days of eternity

B. 5:3-4a: From abandoned Israel to the Shepherd-King
Judah was under Roman domination when Jesus born

- He will S_____ (v4)
Stable strength
- He will S_____ (v4)
The Good Shepherd (John 10)
- In the S_____ of the LORD (v4)
Strength & majesty that lead to worldwide dominion

RESULTS of this for His people:

- _____ (v4)
No more wars or strife
- _____ (v5a)
HE is their peace. He is *your* peace. Forever.

So Herod tries to snuff out this rival. *Impossible!*
His Kingdom *will* prevail.
He comes in weakness for the weak.

What a Hope!
What a Refuge!