

# The Coming King

The culmination of God's promised peace came through a baby born in Bethlehem



**GOD'S STORY**  
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Micah 5:1-15

August 9, 2020

(Micah 5:1-15) <sup>1</sup> Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders, <sup>6</sup> who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. He will deliver us from the Assyrians when they invade our land and march across our borders. <sup>7</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the Lord, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or depend on man. <sup>8</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue. <sup>9</sup> Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed. <sup>10</sup> "In that day," declares the Lord, "I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots. <sup>11</sup> I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. <sup>12</sup> I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. <sup>13</sup> I will destroy your idols and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. <sup>14</sup> I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles when I demolish your cities. <sup>15</sup> I will take vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed me."

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **When have you waited a long time for something (a first date, college graduation, marriage, first home, children, a family member's salvation, etc.)? What was the hardest part about the waiting?**
- **Did the end result make the waiting worth it? Explain.**

Waiting is one of the hardest parts of the human experience. What we want, we want now. But there's also a beauty in the waiting—a sacredness in longing for a spouse, a newborn baby, or that dream job. There's hope in the expectation that your family will come to know the Lord, or in your desire to enter the gates of heaven and see Jesus face-to-face. To wait is to participate in an undeniable, painful, yet beautiful natural process in this life. God's people experienced such a period of waiting. In the midst of prophetic words, promises from the Lord, and signs among the heavens, a yearning group of hopeless people longed for the hope and redemption of their haggard nation. They longed for the star of Bethlehem, a sign of the King for whom they so desperately ached.

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Micah 5:1-6

The context of these verses began in Micah 4:9, where the prophet Micah predicted the fall of Jerusalem, the Babylonian captivity, and the eventual return of the people to the land. Micah also may have had in view the unsuccessful siege of Jerusalem by Assyria during Hezekiah's reign.

- **Take a closer look at verse 1. What are some ways Christians suffer as a result of living in a culture that ignores or rejects God?**
- **What hope do we have in Jesus in the midst of suffering?**

- **What signs of desperation do you see in our world today that should make people long for the security God offers? Why do people ignore that security for a dangerous and uncertain future?**

Christians living in a culture that rejects God can suffer when God's judgment falls on their disobedient nation. But those of us in Christ are beholders of hope. We have the freedom to be faithful in the midst of suffering, responding in a way that testifies of our confidence in God's providential plan.

- **What do you know about Bethlehem? What type of place was it? How did Micah prophesy God would use Bethlehem in the future?**

Bethlehem was situated about five miles south-southwest of Jerusalem. Compared to Jerusalem with its magnificent buildings, Bethlehem was characterized as "small" in size and significance. Yet in spite of its relative insignificance, this birthplace of David (1 Sam 16:1, 18; 17:12) would also become the birthplace of his greatest descendant, the Messiah (Matt 2:1-8). Though Bethlehem was a blip on most of Israel's radar, it became the epicenter of God's plan to redeem the world.

- **How is Jesus described in these verses?**
- **How would Jesus compare to the previous rulers of Israel?**
- **What do these verses teach us about the divinity and eternity of Jesus?**
- **Compare the seeming insignificance of Bethlehem with the incomparable worth of Jesus. How does God often work in surprising ways?**

From Bethlehem would come "one who will be ruler over Israel" (i.e., over the entire nation, north and south). At last, Israel will have a completely fit ruler! This ruler will rule for God and carry out His plan for the earth. From a human perspective, this is an unexpected plan; yet from God's perspective, this has been His plan from eternity past. In God's economy, often what seems foolish to men reveals the hidden wisdom of God.

Have a volunteer read Micah 5:7-15

- **What facts about the Lord do we understand from these verses? How were these promises fulfilled in Jesus' life on earth? What parts of this prophecy remain to be fulfilled at Jesus' return and rule over the earth?**
- **God abandoned Israel when they rebelled against Him, yet provided a great promise to give them hope for the future. How did Israel experience freedom from captivity? In what ways will we enjoy the rest of this promise?**

The ultimate fulfillment of the promise of peace will be realized in the kingdom of God. We will finally live in the safe environment that all desire but that can never be achieved by human governments or armies. In the Kingdom of God, we will be in our Savior's presence, we will be under His rule, and we will never experience danger or fear again. The return of Jesus is the great hope that sustains and encourages us as we face the uncertainties of daily life.

- **What promise of hope is there in the eternal, personal relationship we will have with God the Father? How did Jesus make this possible?**

## COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- **In a world filled with darkness, how should promises of peace and security in God's kingdom affect the way you live today? How will you live with hope, yet still work effectively for the Lord today?**

- Who in your life needs to know about the great hope you have in Christ? What plans can you make to share this truth with him or her this week?

**PRAYER:** Thank God for exhibiting His power, grace, and glory in surprising and unexpected ways. Praise God for saving you. Pray that God would open your eyes to see clearly how He is working in the world around you.

## CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – 2 Kings 17-18

DAY 2 – 2 Kings 19-21

DAY 3 – 2 Kings 22-23

DAY 4 – Jeremiah 1-3:5

DAY 5 – Jeremiah 25, 29

KEY VERSE: Jeremiah 3:12-13

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.

Explain what the text means.

Apply the verse to your life.

Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit [chetscreek.com/gods-story](https://chetscreek.com/gods-story) for videos, study guides, and more.

### OUR VISION

To be a church  
for the unchurched,  
here and around the world.

### ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW  
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a  
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

5:2-5a. God would raise up another ruler from David's hometown of Bethlehem Ephrathah (Ru 4:11) who would be His servant (for Me; cp. 1Sam 16:1). He would originate from antiquity (lit "from days long ago") and "ancient times," probably a reference to David's time (Neh 12:46; Am 9:11). God had not forgotten His promise of granting an eternal kingship to David (2Sam 7:4-17). This coming Davidic ruler would appear when she who is in labor has given birth. Varying interpretations of this woman include: (1) the mother of Messiah (i.e., Mary), (2) Bethlehem, the birthplace of Messiah, (3) a righteous remnant bringing forth salvation, and (4) a historical reference to the upcoming exile (4:10). The exiles would go forth as from the womb into captivity and return once more (v. 3). The ruler will shepherd His people like His ancestor David (2Sam 5:2; 7:7), serving with the authority and strength of Yahweh. His people will live securely in His kingdom that will extend to the ends of the earth (see Ps 2:8; 72:8). He would bring God's "wholeness" or peace (Hb shalom) with His righteous reign (Isa 9:6).

5:5b-9. People confident in their own strength believed that they could raise up for themselves numerous leaders against their enemies, even ruling over Assyria and Nimrod, or Babylon. Micah asserted that only He (God's ruler) will rescue us from Assyria, not any human leaders. God would make the faithful remnant... like dew and rain showers, which are God-caused phenomena that humans cannot control (Jdg 6:36-40; Job 38:28). People must not rely on human strength and initiative for their future but must instead trust in God's power and wait for Him to act. He can make a feeble remnant become like a young lion to execute judgment on their enemies.

5:10-15. God revealed how He would bring about eschatological peace. He would purge His people of anything that hindered their relationship with Him, such as reliance on military might (vv. 10-11), divination (v. 12), and idolatry (vv. 13-14), judging any nation that refused to submit to His rule (v. 15). Objects of military strength hampered their faith. God would remove these hindrances, causing His people to rely on Him alone (Ps 20:7). Sorceries... fortune-tellers, and idolatrous worship were spiritual hindrances (Isa 8:19-20). The people needed purification by God. All people (including Israel) must submit to Him or face His anger and wrath as the holy and sovereign ruler.