

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes
3-28-18

Micah Chapter 5

A Promised Ruler From Bethlehem - Verses 1-4

¹Marshal 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. ²"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." ³Therefore 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. ⁴He 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.

5:1 This ruler was probably King Zedekiah, who was reigning in Jerusalem when Nebuchadnezzar conquered the city (2 Kings 25:1-2). Zedekiah was the last of the kings in David's line to sit on the throne in Jerusalem. Micah said that the next king in David's line would be the Messiah, who would establish a kingdom that would never end.

5:1 Jerusalem's leaders were obsessed with wealth and position, but Micah prophesied that mighty Jerusalem, with all its wealth and power, would be besieged and destroyed. Its king could not save it. In contrast, Bethlehem, a tiny town, would be the birthplace of the only king who could save his people. This deliverer, the Messiah, would be born as a baby in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7), and eventually would reign as the eternal King (Revelation 19-22).

5:2 Ephrathah was the district in which Bethlehem was located. This "ruler" is Jesus, the Messiah. Micah accurately predicted Christ's birthplace hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The promised eternal King in David's line, who would come to live as a man, had been alive forever—"whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Although eternal, Christ entered human history as the man, Jesus of Nazareth.

Deliverance and Punishment - Verses 5-15

⁵ 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, ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed. ¹⁰ "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots. ¹¹ I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. ¹² I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. ¹³ I will destroy your idols and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. ¹⁴ I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles when I demolish your cities. ¹⁵ I will take vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed me."

5:5 This chapter provides one of the clearest Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming. The key descriptive phrase is "he will be our peace." In one of Christ's final talks, he said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). Because of Christ's first coming, we have the opportunity to experience peace with God with no more fear of judgment and no more conflict and guilt. Christ's peace gives us assurance even though wars continue. At Christ's second coming, all wars and weapons will be destroyed (4:3-5).

5:5 Micah's prophecy of seven shepherds and eight leaders is a figurative way of saying that the Messiah will raise up many good leaders when he returns to reign. This contrasts with Micah's words in chapter 3 about Judah's corrupt leaders. The Assyrians here symbolically refer to all nations in every age that oppose God's people. The good leaders led by the Messiah (Christ) will defeat all the evil forces in the world.

5:6 The land of Nimrod is another name for Assyria, which, in this case, is a symbol of all the evil nations in the world.

5:10 When God rules in his eternal kingdom, our strength and deliverance will not be found in military might but in God's almighty power. God will destroy all the weapons that people use for security. Armies will not be needed because God will rule in the heart of every person. Instead of being overwhelmed by fear of invasion or nuclear attack, we should have confidence in God.

5:12-14 Carved images, sacred stones, and Asherah poles were all used for pagan worship.