

O, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. Micah 5:2



Introduction:

"False prophets preached for riches, not for righteousness. Princes thrived on cruelty, violence, and corruption. Priests ministered more for greed than for God. Landlords stole from the poor and evicted widows. Judges lusted after bribes. Businessmen used deceitful scales and weights. Sin had infiltrated every segment of society."
Bruce Wilkinson

I. MESSIAH'S PLACE OF BIRTH

Bethlehem Ephrathah

Genesis 35:16, 19; 48:7

Matthew 2:1-6

John 7:40-42

II. MESSIAH'S PROVENANCE

"too little to be among the clans of Judah"

Matthew 2:6

Genesis 49:10

"One will go forth for Me"

John 1:18; 14:9

Hebrews 1:1-2

"to be ruler in Israel"

Luke 1:32-33; 2:32, 34

III. MESSIAH'S PRE-EXISTENCE

"His goings forth are from long ago"

John 2:1-3; 8:58

Daniel 7:9, 13, 22

"from the days of eternity"

Psalm 90:2

"He will arise and shepherd His flock" (vs. 4)

John 10:11

Hebrews 13:20-21

I Peter 5:2, 4

Revelation 7:17

Conclusion: What is prophesied here?

- 1) Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.
- 2) Though He pre-existed as God, the Messiah would be born of a woman.
- 3) Israel will yet return to the Land and He will shepherd them.
- 4) His kingdom will be one of peace and security.

Food for Thought:

- 1) Why is this prophecy so important? What difference does it make?
- 2) What is the significance of Bethlehem?
- 3) How does this verse proclaim Messiah's pre-existence? Where else in Scripture would you go for support?
- 4) How does this prophecy have significance beyond Micah's day? beyond its application to Israel?