

# The Coming King from Bethlehem

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6

## Introduction

The faithful ones of Israel believed in the promises of God, that a king would come to restore a remnant from Israel and the nations and defeat sin once and for all. Christmas is an opportunity to remember that faith and allow it to encourage our own faith in the same king, revealed to be Jesus the Christ, who will come again to gather the remnant and deal sin its final blow, *in the last days*.

1. To understand the prophecy of Micah, we need to see the background of the entire Old Testament.
  - a. The anticipation slowly builds for one who will deliver Israel from its enemies and deliver humanity from its sin, *In the last days*.
  - b. Gen 3:15 – Adam and Eve have just sinned and lost the blessing and dominion that was meant to be shared by all people, the Lord gives hope.
  - c. Gen 12:1-3 – Abraham will have offspring through whom all the nations will be blessed, kings will come from Abraham (Gen. 17:6).
  - d. Gen 49:8-12 – *In the last days* (Gen. 49:1) - A king will come from Judah who will reign forever and usher in extreme prosperity.
  - e. Numbers 24:17 – *In the last days* (Num. 24:14) – A star will come out of Jacob, one who will rule and “crush the brow”.
  - f. 2 Samuel 7:12-16 – A promised future king who will reign forever; God will be his father and he will be his son.
2. Micah appears at the crossroads between the history of Israel and a hope in God’s future work.
  - a. Micah is one of the 12 minor prophets, whose words of judgement and prophecy are compiled in one book with a central theme (Hosea 3:4-5).
  - b. Micah is writing between 750-700 B.C.
  - c. He is dealing with the present Evil in Israel (Mic. 2:1-3).
  - d. He is prophesying the judgment to come on Israel (Mic. 3:12).

- e. He is looking forward to the restoration of a remnant from Israel and the nations, *in the last days* (Mic. 4:1-10).
  - f. The context of the ruler's birth is the triumph of Zion over the siege and strike of Israel's enemies.
  - g. Micah's main concern and greatest faith is in the power of the Lord's mercy to forgive the sins of his people (Mic. 7:18-20).
3. The priests and the scribes had faith in the wrong things.
- a. The Pharisees, the scribes and the chief priests did not know how to read the Old Testament (Matt. 15:1-3; 21:15-16).
  - b. The quotation of Micah 5:2 in Matthew 2:6 is put on the tongue of the chief priests and scribes, not Matthew.
    - o The pharisees cannot make sense out of the ruler as a man of lowliness coming from a place of insignificance.
    - o They include that he is a shepherd while omitting that he is of old, from everlasting.
  - c. This is already introducing us to the idea that they are going to get everything about Jesus wrong, he will not be what they want or expect.
4. This is not just the Christmas story; this is *our* story.
- a. The question this Christmas season should not be, how does this story fit into my life, but instead, how does my life fit into this story?
  - b. The king who came once as a baby born in Bethlehem is soon coming again!
  - c. Have faith in God's wonderful plan of redemption that is happening right now.
  - d. Don't limit your understanding of Christmas to a few passages; the story of Christmas is the story of the whole bible!

Let the whole bible encourage your faith in the once come and again coming king!