

## THE COMING OF THE KING: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Matthew 2 and Micah 4-5

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

**“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him,

**“In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”**

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

**“Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”**

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. (Matthew 2:1-12 ESV)

### MICAH 4-5 (ESV)

#### A ESTABLISHMENT OF YAHWEH’S REIGN OVER ALL THE NATIONS

4:1-5

1. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD
2. shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
3. and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say:
4. “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob,
5. that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”
6. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
7. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;
8. and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
9. nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;
10. but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
11. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god,
12. but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

#### B GOOD NEWS FOR THE EXILES, THE REMNANT

4:6-7

1. In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame
2. and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted;
3. and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
4. and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore.

**C RULERSHIP FROM AN EARLIER TIME WILL COME TO MIGDAL-EDER****4:8-10**

1. And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion,
2. to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.
3. Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you?
4. Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor?
5. Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor,
6. for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon.
7. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

**D ISRAEL'S PRESENT HOPELESS SITUATION WILL BE REVERSED BY YAHWEH****4:11-5:1**

1. Now many nations are assembled against you,
2. saying, "Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."
3. But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD;
4. they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.
5. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion,
6. for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze;
7. you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.
8. Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us;
9. with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

**C<sup>1</sup> RULER FROM AN EARLIER TIME WILL COME TO BETHLEHEM****5:2-5a**

1. **But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,**
2. **from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,**
3. **whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.**
4. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;
5. then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
6. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
7. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
8. And he shall be their peace.

**B<sup>1</sup> GOOD NEWS FOR THE REMNANT****5:5b-9**

1. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces,
2. then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;
3. they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances;
4. and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border.
5. Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples
6. like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass,
7. which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man.
8. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples,
9. like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,
10. which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.
11. Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off.

**A<sup>1</sup> ESTABLISHMENT OF YAHWEH'S TRANSFORMING CONTROL OVER THE NATIONS****5:10-15**

1. And in that day, declares the LORD, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots;
2. and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds;
3. and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;
4. and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you,
5. and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands;
6. and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities.
7. And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.