

This OneWill BeOur PeaceMicah 5:2-5

2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah

- "clans"/"thousands" (NKJV) major division of a tribe
- Bethlehem was the birthplace of David (1 Sam. 16:1)

"Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."

(1 Sam. 16:1)

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- "clans"/"thousands" (NKJV) major division of a tribe
- Bethlehem was the birthplace of David (1 Sam. 16:1)
- Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Son of David
 - The Sanhedrin would confirm the location to Herod (Matt. 2:1-6)
 - The people knew the location and the lineage (Jn. 7:40-42)
- Bethlehem means "house of bread"
 - From the "house of bread" would come "the bread of life" (Jn. 6:35)

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.

• Jews expected a descendant of David to rule (Isa. 9:7)

"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of *peace*, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." (Isa. 9:7)

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- Jews expected a descendant of David to rule (Isa. 9:7)
 - Most expected the Messiah to rule over an earthly kingdom
 - But Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36)
- The Messiah would rule over spiritual Israel (Gal. 3:26-29)
 - "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring ... "
- His birth would be a future date, but He is eternal (Jn. 1:1-2)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2)

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- His birth would be a future date, but He is eternal (Jn. 1:1-2)
 - "Before Abraham was, I AM" (Jn. 8:58)

3 Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child.

- God would give His people up until "the fullness of time"
- "she" may refer to Mary (Isa. 7:14) or ...
- "she" may refer to the remnant of faithful Israel (Micah 4:10)
 - Zion is spoken of as "in travail" (Isa. 66:7)
 - Corresponds to the "radiant woman" of Revelation 12:1-5
 - "And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron..."

Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel.

- This "remnant" will return not to the land, but to the LORD
- This remnant will enjoy fellowship with their King
 - "that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29)
- This remnant is not limited to physical Israel
 - "In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice." (Rom. 11:5)
- This remnant is spiritual Israel

4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord...

- Like David, He will be a Shepherd King
- He will be the Good Shepherd (John:10:11, 14)
- His power is derived from God
- ... in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.
- His glory will glorify God (John 17:1-4)

And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.

- His flock will abide:
 - "... I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matt. 16:18)
 - "who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Pet. 1:5)
- His kingdom is universal and eternal
 - "to the ends of the earth" and until the earth ends...

5 This One will be our peace

- "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**." (Isa. 9:6)
- That's what the angel proclaimed to those shepherds...
 - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among men with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)
 - "through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross" (Col. 1:20)

Without Bethlehem there is no Golgotha But, it is the cross that gives meaning to the manger

"For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, But **a body You have prepared for Me**" (Heb. 10:4-5)

"... and **He** Himself **bore our sins in His body** on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed**." (1 Peter 2:24)

"Therefore, having been justified **by faith**, **we have peace** with God **through our Lord** Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1)

"For He Himself is our peace..." (Eph. 2:14)