

Against that backdrop of divine condemnation, our text, [Micah 5:1-5](#), highlights God's promise that He will raise up a righteous King from the House of David, a prophecy fulfilled in Christ.

## INTRODUCTION (observation):

1. Verse 2 might sound familiar. We see it quoted in Matt 2:1-6.
  - What is the occasion for this text to come up in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus?
  - Who is quoting Micah's prophecy, and whom are they speaking to?
2. When Micah wrote his prophecy, the people of God – especially her leaders – were living in a state of rebellion against Him, with the threat of invasion by both Babylon and Assyria on the horizon. Yet this text promises a righteous ruler who would confirm the promises made to the great King David. Read those promises in 2 Sam 7:8-17 (the “David Covenant”).
3. There are four promises concerning the King who would arise from the House of David, each beginning with the words “he shall...” (v. 3-5a). What are those four promises?

**DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):**

Verse 3 is a confusing part of our text. What do you think it means when Micah says that the Messiah “shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth”?

Footnotes in your study Bible may help, or a good commentary.

[illegible]

**Spoiler alert!** The application question below incorporates an answer to one of the questions in the Observation section. Read ahead at your own risk!

Israel's wise men, then, are Exhibit A for the barrenness of biblical literacy alone: knowing the Bible is essential for spiritual growth, but biblical literacy alone does not guarantee spiritual growth. A hard heart can resist even the Spirit's voice in the Scripture.

Have you ever found yourself (perhaps now) or do you know someone in the same place as Israel's spiritually lethargic wise men: knowing God's Word but not caring enough to seek Him in it?

1. Someone who is biblically literate but spiritually lethargic doesn't get there by design; no one sets out to become hardened to the work of the Spirit. What are the small, incremental steps from spiritual vitality to spiritual lethargy?
2. What means have you seen God use to move His people from lethargy to vitality? (No doubt, some discomfort must be involved.)