

The Promise of Christmas **Promised Leadership**

Micah 5:2

Our Christmas series this year takes a look back, way back to the Old Testament, to examine some of the prophecies (promises) that Jesus fulfilled in his birth. Two weeks ago we saw that Jesus fulfilled God's Promised Revelation & last week we saw how Jesus fulfilled God's Promised Deliverance. Today is another Promise...

Leadership:

- **Bad Leaders:** Selfish, incompetent, evil, lazy, dishonest, etc.
- **Average Leaders:** Inconsistent, shortsighted, moderately effective, fuzzy on expectations, likeable but not respected, etc.
- **Great Leaders:** Inspiring, integrity, sacrificial, focused, etc.

Historical Leaders: Adolf Hitler (bad), SD Governor in 1934, Tom Berry (average), Winston Churchill (great). Notice one word we haven't used for any of these leaders...Perfect. That's because this title could only apply to Jesus!

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

Colossians 1:15

Main Idea: God Promises Perfect Leadership to Those Who Follow Jesus

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from old, from ancient days." **Micah 5:2**

Two Qualities of Perfect Leadership:

I. Perfect Leadership Comes from an Unexpected Place

"But you, O Bethlehem, Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel..."

Micah 5:2a

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:45**

Jesus' Example of Leadership: *"(Jesus) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, & taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin & began to wash the disciples' feet & to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him...When he had washed their feet & put on his outer garments & resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher & Lord, & you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."* **John 13:4-5, 12-14**

II. Perfect Leadership Comes from an Unexpected Time

"...whose coming forth is from old, from ancient days." **Micah 5:2b**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:1-2, 14**

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." **John 6:38**

"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low & despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

While it is popular today to 'cancel' people for one mistake, one bad day or one reckless act, Jesus was very different from that...

- **Matthew:** He sold out the Jews to collect & get rich off Rome
- **Simon:** Terrorist, covert assassinations on Roman officials, extreme
- **Saul:** Self-righteous Pharisee, persecutor of Christians, anti-Christ
- **Mary Magdalene:** Woman, demon-possessed
- **Fishermen, Shepherds, Outcasts, Poor, Diseased, Despised...**

Just like Hezekiah in Micah's day, there is no shortage of imperfect leadership in our world, but when you consider Jesus, it all becomes clear! God keeps his promises, and we get to enjoy them everyday!

Promise: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* **John 8:12b**

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)

