

Awaiting Advent: The Promises before the Manger – Week 4 – Micah 5:2-4, Luke 2

**Micah 5:2-4:** *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”*

<sup>3</sup> *Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.*

<sup>4</sup> *He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.*

INTRO to series—**Awaiting Advent: The Promises before the Manger:** Long before that silent night in Bethlehem, the Lord was already writing the story of our Savior’s birth. God had promised the Advent, or “arrival,” of a just and righteous King who would reign forever. Generation after generation waited and watched. They looked for this Messiah King who would bring light into their darkness, peace into their turmoil, and hope into their hearts. This Advent, we’ll follow that story—from the ancient promises of the Old Testament to their beautiful fulfillment in Jesus. We’ll see Him as the true Light shining in the darkness, the Shepherd who leads us with love, and the King whose glory reaches to the ends of the earth. Jesus is our Immanuel—“God with us.”

INTRO to **Micah 5:2-4:** Micah, who was a contemporary of Isaiah, also prophesied about a child of promise who would be born to God’s people. In order to understand God’s promises in Micah, it’s helpful to remember the promises we studied in Isaiah:

Week 1 – HOPE – From *Isaiah 40*, *Luke 1:8-17*, and *John 1:6-9*:

**-God promised to make a way for His people to be forgiven and restored.**

**-God promised a Redeemer who would set everything wrong to right.**

Week 2 – LOVE – From *Isaiah 7:14*, *Matthew 1:18-25*, and *John 1:14*:

**-God promised a sign for His people to assure them that He would not forsake them.**

**-God promised He would fulfill His Word to His people by coming to us Himself.**

Week 3 – JOY – From *Isaiah 9:2-7*, *Luke 1:26-38*, and *John 1:9-13*

**-God promised a true Light to break through the deepest darkness.**

**-God promised a true King to bring peace and to reign in justice and righteousness forever.**

This week we turn to our last Sunday of Advent, and God's promise of PEACE as given to the prophet Micah—

**I. PEACE: God promised to bring His people, once scattered, back together through the Redeemer King, to be born in Bethlehem. (vs. 2-3)**

-The name Ephrathah, with Bethlehem, means “fruitfulness.” Though Bethlehem was small and seemingly insignificant to many, God promised His greatest blessings would come from this city tied to the promises made through David and his family.

-The greatest promise was the birth of Israel's true King, fulfilling God's promises from the past—from ancient times.

-Though God's people would face a season of difficulty and darkness, as Isaiah had also warned, the True Light would shine through the birth of the Son.

-These promises were fulfilled when the Redeemer King was born in Bethlehem, as recorded in **Luke 2:1-7**: *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

-When Christ was born the **true king** reigned in the City of David!

**II. PEACE: God promised our Redeemer King would also be our Good Shepherd. (vs. 4)**

-Though Jesus Christ was born as King of Kings, He also became the True Good Shepherd of God's people just as Micah promised through His ministry, miracles, teaching, and leadership. He leads those who follow Him to true peace, because by

believing in His death on the cross and His resurrection, through faith, we are brought from death to life!

-...*for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth...* God's promises of the Redeemer King and Good Shepherd to come from Bethlehem were for more than just one nation (Israel), these promises are for people from all nations!

-The True Good Shepherd will never lead us astray, but will always lead us to that which is for His glory and our good.

\*\*\*Jesus is our perfect Redeemer King, and our Perfectly Good Shepherd—So MAY WE serve and follow Him!

### **Other Scriptures Referenced:**

**Psalm 139:13-18:** *For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

<sup>14</sup> *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.*

<sup>15</sup> *My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

<sup>16</sup> *Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.*

<sup>17</sup> *How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!*

<sup>18</sup> *Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.*

**Micah 5:5a:** *And he will be our peace...*

### **Other Quotes/Resources:**

-“It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.” –Charles Dickens