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Micah - The Prophet Predicts the Future



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #148 ~

I love the prophets, the God-exalting, Spirit-filled, sin-declaring, judgment-speaking, future-telling, hope-inspiring prophets. What a blessing that God raised them up, godly men for their day, for our day, and for our future. Their writings are not outdated; they are not to be allegorized; they are not too hard to understand; they are not to be skipped over and ignored; and they are for both the Jewish people and the church.

Micah, like many of the prophets, focused on the sin and judgment of the Jews, but he also spoke about the coming **Messiah, the Christ**, and the hope He would bring. We see in this short book, like diamonds shining in the dark, a number of verses speaking about the Christ, one predicting that He would be born in that little town of Bethlehem. *"As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah,*

from you, One will go forth from Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2). This comprehensive, 1st coming – 2nd coming prophecy does not talk about this eternal One being the Savior, but points to Him being the **King**, the ruler in Israel. And that Christ will be ruling over the Jews and the world in the kingdom ages to come is a major theme in the rest of Micah's 2nd coming prophecies. Here is what we learn from Micah:

* **Micah 2:12-13** predicts, *"I will surely assemble all of you Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep… so their King goes on before them, and the Lord at their head."* In the future, Jesus will visibly be the **King** of the Jews.

* **Micah 4:1** tells us, *"It will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as chief among the mountains… and the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.' For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."* Christ the King will reign from Jerusalem, but He will also be a **Teacher**, declaring to people from all over the world the truth they need to know and live by.

* **Micah 4:5** declares, *"He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares… nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war."* In this rebellious and war-torn world, there is no real peace, but rejoice, for Jesus Christ will come and be the **Judge**, and bring true peace. Micah 4:6-8 gives more valuable information about Christ's coming kingdom and, in particular, that it will be an eternal kingdom. *"The Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever."*

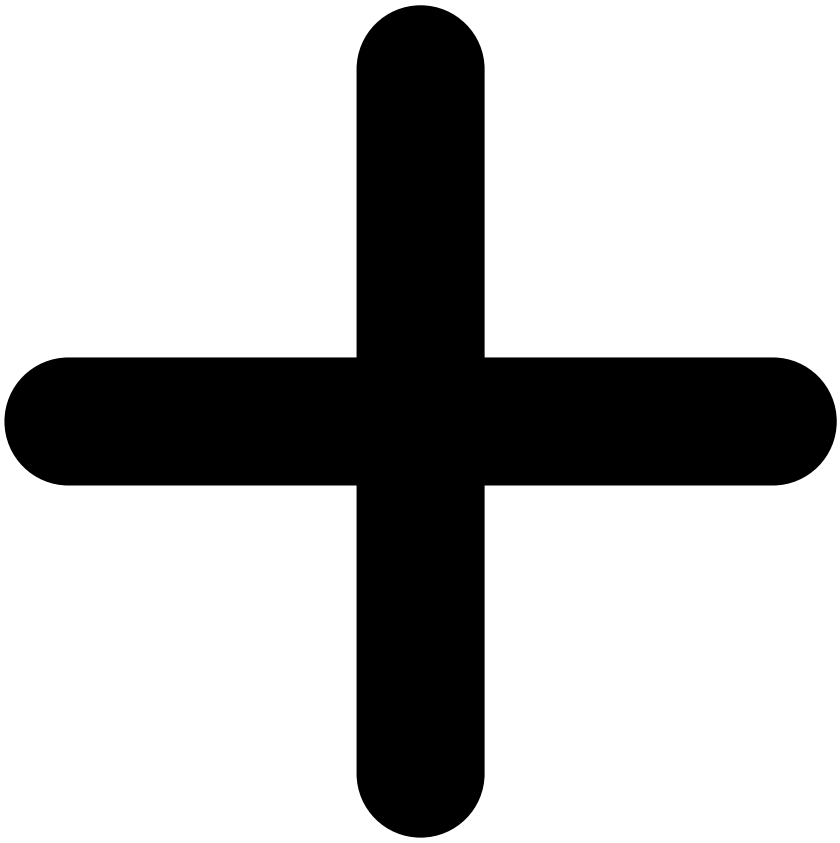
* **Micah 5:3-4** goes on to say, *"He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has born a Child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel, and He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God... at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth."* This prophesy, that the Jews would be given up, also stated in Luke 21:20-24, means they would be scattered all over the world, and this happened around 70 AD. But since 1880 AD, over 6 million Jews have returned to their land, and now Israel is in labor, for her birth pains are taking place. (Matthew 24:4-8, Revelation 12:1-5). That the Jews are back in their land means we are living in the end times, and so it won't be long before we see Christ coming in a cloud to rapture the church from the earth, pour out His wrath on this world, and then be a **Shepherd** over this remnant of newly-saved Jews.

* **Micah 7:18-20** concludes, *"Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity... He will again have compassion on us... You will give truth to Jacob and unchanging love to Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from the days of old."* Here is God, the Christ, being a **Savior**, showing love, forgiveness and compassion. And we are reminded of His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that they would have a great multitude of descendants, a large portion of land, and world-wide blessing. Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-17, 17:1-8

The **Messiah**, the **Christ** is coming, and He will be a **King**, a **Teacher**, a **Judge**, a **Shepherd**, and a **Savior**. You can only fully understand God's plans for the church if you understand the prophets, and their description of His plans for the Jews. God's work with the church is now coinciding with His work with the Jews. What an honor to be living in the last years of this church age, for we read the prophets and look back and see what has been fulfilled, and look forward to see plans of His that will be fulfilled. Christ will soon return, and then we will see these Micah prophecies, along with many more, all come true. And these prophecies for the Jews will directly affect the church, for Christ will be our King, and we will reign with Him, and with Jewish believers, forever and ever.

I encourage you to read the prophets, and find the verses that speak of the future of the Jews, for they now relate to Christians. Hebrews 11:39-40 explains it this way, *“All these* (Old Testament believers), *having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us* (church age Christians), *so that apart from us they* (Old Testament believers) *should not be made be perfect.*” God’s work with the Jews and the Christians will come together, converging in the age to come. The conclusion is given at the end of Romans 11, that chapter to the church that tells us about the salvation of the Jewish remnant, *“To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”*

P.S. During this Christmas season, it’s good to be reminded of the Old Testament prophets, for they told us so much about Christ’s first coming, and birth, and His second coming. Here are two posts that will help you understand how God’s past working relates to the future God has for us. “Why the Jews Are Important for You and the Church” and “Prophecy Predicts the Future.”



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