

The Greatest from the Least

Introduction

- Why were OT saints looking forward to the birth of Christ? Why should we be thankful for His birth & 2nd coming?
- We are examining OT circumstances where the birth of Christ was clearly announced – encouragement & hope.
- The remnant of God’s people had a wicked king Ahaz & needed hope for a faithful king in the future (Is. 7:14-15).
- The remnant of God’s people faced danger from an invading enemy & needed hope for a righteous king & kingdom (Is. 9:1-7)
- Micah was a prophet in Judah during the reign of 3 kings – Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah [along with Isaiah].

I. Present Distress (Mic. 5:1)

A. The saints’ weak defense (v. 1a)

*Sin had weakened God’s people making them unprepared for battle & warfare. Sin negatively affects a believer’s priorities, desires & plans. Even though sinful believers gather to fight the enemy, they will be ineffective because of sin. **Spiritual warfare without holiness is vanity (2Co. 10:3-5).***

B. The enemy’s strong attack (v. 1b-c)

*Judah would be attacked & sieged by the enemy (Assyrians & Babylonians) – “siege is laid against us”. The enemy found Judah’s kings (Hezekiah & Zedekiah) defenseless & humiliated them – “they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek” (2Ki. 25:1-7). Seeing the king defeated & humiliated brought discouragement upon the people of God – need hope. Sins result in believers becoming victims, captives & suffering the consequences of sin just like any other unbeliever. **The people of God must trust the Lord for mercy even when suffering for sin (Ps. 51:1ff).***

Why were OT saints looking forward to the birth of Christ? Why did they have so much hope & anticipation in His birth? This should help us as we prepare for & celebrate Christmas!

II. Future Deliverance (Mic. 5:2-5a)

A. The King’s humble beginnings (v. 2)

*“But” introduces some contrasts: old king/new King, Jerusalem/Bethlehem, and discouragement/hope. Bethlehem would be the birth place of the new King – “from you...” (Mt. 2:1-6). Bethlehem (house of bread) was a small insignificant town compared to the magnificent city of Jerusalem. God often chooses the least or youngest: Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, Moses, Rahab, Ruth, Joseph, Mary, Matthew, James, John, Peter, etc. (1Co. 1:26-31). Humility is always the beginning of greatness with God (Mt. 18:4; 19:30; Lk. 14:11; Jas. 4:10). The new King’s origins are from eternity & the household of David [divine & human] – “whose coming forth...” (Jn. 1:1-2; Mt. 1:1). **He is the unique Son of God (Jn. 3:16)!***

B. The King’s faithful rule (v. 3-5a)

*Israel will be without a king (abandoned) until the birth & reign of the Messiah (v. 3a) – 600 yrs. Then many Jews will be saved & come into the kingdom of God with Gentiles (v. 3b; Ac. 2:1-47; Rom. 11:25-27). Micah is writing to encourage Jewish believers directly & us indirectly. The new Messiah & King will reign forever while providing for & protecting His people in glory (v. 4-5a). **Our King has already come & there is no other King for the people of God. Our King has already begun to rule & He shall reign forever and ever (Lk. 17:21; Rom. 14:17).***