

An unlikely town – Bethlehem

Unlikely instruments part 1

Micah 5:2-5a

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.”
Micah 5:2

I. Facts about Bethlehem:

- a. Small unknown town near Jerusalem
- b. Means = “House of bread”
- c. Place where Jacob’s wife, Rachel, died and buried (Gen 35:16-20) after giving birth.
 - i. Matthew cites this in his account of Herod murdering babies. “Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.” Matt 2:16-20 (Jer 31:15)
 - ii. In Rachel’s pain she names son Ben-oni = “Son of my sorrow” but Jacob renamed him Benjamin “Son of my right hand.” Pointing ahead to Jesus suffering and glory.
- d. Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem and it’s here that Boaz fell in love with Ruth and married her. Ruth became an ancestor of Jesus (Matt 1:5)
- e. David was Bethlehem’s greatest son and through his line the Messiah was promised (2 Sam &:16)
- f. Herod and Jews knew Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Matt 2:3-6 & Jn 7:42)

II. Important truths this prophecy reveals about Messiah (Jesus):

- a. He is eternal
“...one whose origins are from the distant past.” Micah 5:2b
- b. He stepped out of eternity into human history.
- c. He was sent by the Father to be our Saviour.
“Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.” 1 John 4:14
- d. He was truly human.
“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” John 1:14

III. How is Jesus impacting my life today?

“And he will be the source of peace.” Micah 5:5a

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27