



O Bethlehem
6th in the “Who is a God like you?” Series
Micah 5:1-15 p. 778
June 17, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us that the gospel has always been God’s plan and a reversal of the world’s values.

The Text: Micah 5:1-15

1) The entire Bible points to and finds fulfillment in Jesus Christ (vv. 1-2).

Matthew 2:1-6: ¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

2 Samuel 7:12-16: ¹² ... I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ... ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

2 Corinthians 1:20: “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

What impact does this make?

- (a) It unites the Bible and its message upon Jesus – we read the Bible for Jesus and through Jesus.
- (b) It focuses God’s plan and purposes on Jesus – we live now through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- (c) It grounds our hope in this life and the life to come upon Jesus – proof is his death, resurrection, & ascension.

2) Jesus and the gospel is a reversal of human values and powers (vv. 2-15).

1 Corinthians 1:27-31: ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being^[d] might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him^[e] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

What difference does this make?

- (a) It teaches us that God’s way of salvation is contrary to human expectations.
- (b) It teaches us that God delights to use unlikely instruments so as to better display his glory.
- (c) It teaches us that the true hope of believers is God’s sovereign grace.
- (d) It teaches us that God establishes his church to bless many peoples and declare his glory.

Response

What do you think of when you think about Christianity?

Sunday Text Questions for Micah 5:1-15

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- 1) Starter Question: What do you think of when you think about Christianity?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How did the coming of Jesus fulfill what was promised in v. 2?
- 4) What, then, is v. 3 saying about the timing of Jesus' coming from the perspective of Micah?
- 5) In what ways do vv. 4-6 describe the ruling and shepherding of Jesus Christ?
- 6) How do vv. 7-9 describe the ways God will empower his church to minister in the world?
- 7) Matthew 2:5-6 points to Micah 5:2 and shows that Jesus was promised long before in the Old Testament. How should this affect the way Christians should think about the Old Testament?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. How might this verse be used to help Christians interpret the Old Testament, especially all of its promises?
- 9) V. 2 points out the irony that the King of kings comes from the small, insignificant village of Bethlehem. How is Jesus and the gospel a reversal of human values and powers?
- 10) How might this text exhort Christians to minister with boldness in the world, not relying merely on human gifts or resources, but on the sovereign grace of God?

Further study this week: Matthew 2 on the Micah 5 quote in context (Mon); 2 Samuel 7 on God's covenant with David (Tues); Luke 24:13-35 on Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament (Wed); John 5:30-47 on Jesus as the message of the Old Testament (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 on the irony of the gospel (Fri);

