**Seeking God’s Plan for the Messiah**

**Micah 5–God’s Plan for the Little Things**

Micah had been castigating the leaders of the people for their failure to do what they had been commissioned to do. Judges had failed to give justice. Prophets had failed to speak a true word for God. Rulers had ceased to rule. As a result, the kingdom was in chaos, and an even greater judgment was coming. But this was not the final word, and the section ended with the prophecy of a golden age to be marked by four freedoms: freedom from ignorance of God’s law, freedom from war, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. (James Montgomery Boice – The Minor Prophets).

- **Micah 5:2-4 -** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

**3 lessons from God’s plan that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem**

I. God Delights in Using “Little” Things.

- …who are too little to be among the clans of Judah

A. So there would be no question about the Messiah’s character.

- **Matthew 11:29** - Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- **Matthew 18:4** - …whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- **Philippians 2:8** - …He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

B. So there would be no question about the Messiah’s mission.

- **Luke 4:18-19** - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

**- Micah 2:1-2** - Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

C. This is the way God often works.

**- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31** - Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

II. God’s Son is a Ruler Worth Following.

A. Because He is eternal.

- **Micah 5:2** – His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

B. That is one of the reasons God made prophecies like this.

C. You have to decide whether you will follow His Lordship.

- **Romans 10:9-10** - That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

- **1 John 2:3** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

- **Matthew 2:1-2** - 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, 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.”

- **Matthew 2:3-4** - When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

- **Matthew 2:5-6** - They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘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.’ ”

D. Even fulfilled prophecy from a God who is obviously eternal will not move the indifferent heart.

- **Zechariah 4:10** - …whoever has despised the day of small things…

- **Micah 5:4 -** And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

III. Not Only Does Jesus Christ Call Upon Us to Follow Him, He also Gives Us the Ability to Do So.

**- John 10:11** - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- **Micah 7:18-** Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity ad passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.