

Introduction

- 1 2000 yrs ago, Caesar Augustus said everyone in Roman Empire must be counted incl Israel
- 2 Everyone was to go to the town of their forefathers at a particular time to be counted.
- 3 Joseph of Nazareth had to go 3 days walk to Bethlehem, city of David with fiancé Mary
- 4 God sent Gabriel to Mary- **Name baby Jesus**, Son of Most High-save people from their sins
- 5 Amazingly, although a virgin God Holy Spirit overshadowed her, made her pregnant.
- 6 Pregnant Mary struggled to Bethlehem, then gave birth to Jesus in stable - no room in inn
- 7 What's amazing?-700 yrs earlier God told Micah a special baby will be born in Bethlehem
- 8 He would rule over Israel - Roman Emperor knew nothing about Israel's Creator God
- 9 How could these 2 unrelated events happen at the same time, unless God was in control?

I Micah 5:1-6 Promise of a Future Messiah/Christ/Promised One for Israel**A 5:1-2 God always keeps His promises because He is 100% trustworthy**

- 1 5:1 God tells Jerusalem to prepare for an attack; **2 5:2** Promise re future ruler to be born in Bethlehem (origins from of old) 1 of many OT promises re Jesus' birth, life etc
- a Isaiah 7:14** born of virgin **b 11:1** Be from tribe of Judah, descendant of King David
- c 9:6-7** Have God's nature/character **d 53:5** Crucified for our sins **e 53:11** Rose from dead
- 3 **Odds** of all those prophecies coming true are impossible unless God is in control
- 4 This shows us that God speaks the truth, so His many promises in Bible are true
- 5 **2 Sam 7:13,16** God promised David "I'll establish 1 of your descendants on throne of his kingdom forever" Promise was given to Israel at time of weakness, not strength
- 6 Micah makes clear that whoever truly trusts the Messiah will inherit God's promises
- 7 **2 Cor 1:20** "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ
- 8 Any Jew hearing re Micah's prophecies of coming Bethlehem King thought of 2 people
- 9 King David and the coming Son of David, the Messiah. David was **a** from Bethlehem
- b** Israel's greatest king **c** As boy was a shepherd, then Israel's shepherd king **Psalm 78:71**

B 5:2 Insignificance of Bethlehem compared to the importance of the One born there

- 1 Bethlehem 8km Sth of Jerusalem, only fame -birthplace of Israel's greatest King, David
- 2 God chose it for great event-baby born will change course of human history & eternity
- 3 Not chosen for its greatness but to bring glory to God, Jesus born in stable not an inn
- 4 God looks back to David, not forward to descendant kings whose sin led Israel to exile
- 5 God chooses weak things of world to shame wise/strong - man can only boast in God
- 6 **Math 2:1-6** Chief priests/people knew Messiah would be born in Bethlehem **John 7:42**

C 5:3-4 Christ will protect His people, give them peace and help them spread the gospel

- 1 God gave Judah message of hope after defeat of Israel- Judah to go to Babylon - **4:10**
- 2 **5:3** Therefore Israel will be judged but then the Messiah will come to begin a new age
- 3 **5:4** Messiah will **a Stand**. He won't rest waiting for His followers to serve Him, but will always be active, ready, alert, waiting to help those who trust Him as their leader
- b Be shepherd** to serve his flock relying on God's power/strength - not worldly power
- John 10:11** Jesus is the good shepherd who protects & lays down his life for his sheep.
- c** He will have **God's strength** to protect his followers from danger as they trust Him, providing them with spiritual food, showing them how to love and serve Him better
- d** All who repent/believe in Jesus will become members of church with Him as Head

e Math 28:18-20 Jesus has all auth. in heaven/earth - can be trusted to meet our needs
 promises to be with us each day by His Spirit, help us overcome sin, witness to others
f They will live securely as his greatness will spread all over the world - Acts 1:8
 New churches will be planted thru'out world as gospel is preached, Bible translated
g He will be their peace - Born again Chns will experience Jesus' peace in their hearts

D 5:5-6 Messiah and his people will defeat the Assyrians invading Judah at that time.

1 The 7 shepherds, 8 leaders will be remnant used by the Messiah to defeat Assyria-5:5a
 "He will be their peace", 5:6b "He will deliver us"-Messiah will conquer thru' his people
 2 Assyria conquered 9 ½ tribes of N Kingdom 622, but not 2 ½ tribes S Kingdom, Judah

II 5:7-9 A remnant will influence many like fragrance of life, a smell of death-2 Cor 2:14-16

1 **5:7** "The remnant (4:7) will be" links this section with the coming of the Messiah
 2 The Messiah will expand his kingdom among the nations through the remnant (4:7).
 3 **5:7** Remnant described as Jacob, one of Abraham's descendants.
a Most world nations have Chns who trust Jesus -are Abr's spiritual descendants-**Gen 12:3**
b God faithfulness to this promise, means Abr is the Father of many nations - **Rom 4:16-17**
 4 The Messiah will bring water refreshment to dry barren nations like **a 5:7** Dew
b 5:7 Showers – which both bring life, refreshment **c 5:8** And lions who will bring death
 5 This prophecy finds its fulfillment in the early church and subsequent spread of the
 Gospel & church throughout the world over the past 2000 years - we form part of this
 6 **2 Cor 2:14-16** Paul describes how Chns spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus as
 the aroma of Christ among those who being saved from God's judgement & those who
 are perishing. To the one we are the fragrance of life and to the other the smell of death

III 5:10-15 The Lord will protect His Kingdom by cleansing His people from their sin

A 5:10-14 God will cleanse Israel from unholiness within, to protect it from His anger

1 Israel needs cleansing from apostasy- 4x "**I will destroy**" - Replaced trust in God with
a 5:10-11 Military power – "I (God) will destroy" your horses
 Instead of asking for God's help, obeying, they trusted their military power, not God
2 Kings 19:35 Hezekiah prayed for God's help, Angel killed 185000 Assyrian soldiers
b 5:12 Magic and witchcraft – "I will destroy"
 These are areas controlled by Satan, but instead of asking God's help Israel turned
 to ungodly sources although told God hated, forbade these practices in **Deut 18:9-14**
 Today people turn to horoscopes/fortune tellers/hypnotism for answers, not God
c 5:13-14 Idolatry – "I will destroy" Cities=altars
 1 Israel used false idol religions, believing they could manipulate forces of life within
 nature through magical words and ritual sacrifices of animals **eg** animism
 2 Included carved images but how could dead wood/stone idols help spiritually?
 3 Baal/Asherah poles were male/female gods - today replace God with other things
 4 Secular man manipulates life by his use of science in its various forms-ignores God

B 5:15 God will punish outside nations who refuse to obey Him, thus protecting Israel

1 Down through Bible history God has punished various nations and their leaders, who
 have mocked Him or refused to acknowledge His existence **eg** Assyria, Babylon, Egypt,
 2 **Rom 12:19-21, Deut 32:35** - Is God's area-"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord"

IV Summary of Micah 5:1-15

- 1 God's promises – great importance of reading the Bible daily if possible, to learn how to live God's way
- 2 Have you/I repented of our sin & believed in Jesus, because He paid the price for my sin
- 3 Are you/I spreading the right aroma of Christ among the people we meet each day?
People judge Jesus by those who claim to follow Him – how else can they know Him?
- 4 Are you/I confessing our sins to God, allowing Him to forgive these sins, change our hearts within to become more like Jesus, less like our self-centred natures?