

The Promise of a King

December 2, 2018



Open: Share about a time in your life when you felt hopeless and in great need.

Read: Micah 5:1-5a.

Discuss:

1. In verse 1 Micah warns Israel of a day when God, in judgment, will remove His blessing from their king and nation, leaving them to be overtaken by an enemy people. What might it have felt like to know this was coming? How might you have responded?
2. In verse 2 Micah offers a prophecy of a future King who would rule with God's blessing. Why might Micah draw attention to the fact that the city this King would come from is "too little to be among the clans of Judah"? What does this tell us about God?
3. Looking at verse 2, what phrases indicate that this Person who would come out of Bethlehem would be significant? What should it mean for our own lives to know that God often chooses to bring greatness out of seemingly insignificant sources? Is there a particular situation in your life for which you need to be reminded that God can do great things through our weakness?
4. The beginning of verse 3 indicates God has a definite timetable—and we might not see His blessings for a long time. In fact, Jesus was not born until 700 years after the siege of verse 1. How does knowing that God sometimes delays His blessing cause you to view your present circumstances? How are you affected by knowing God always fulfills His promises?
5. What expectations does verse 4 give us of the coming Messiah? How do we see Jesus fulfilling these expectations in the New Testament? How have you personally experienced each of these blessings? What blessings of Christ's reign are you still looking forward to?
6. Verse 4 indicates that this King "shall be great to the ends of the earth." How does this correlate with what we see Jesus accomplishing through His coming? How should knowing that this is the end goal impact the way that we celebrate Christmas here and now? (*What might you do this Christmas that will contribute toward the realization of this end goal?*)

Apply: Micah 5 indicates that God is a Promise-Giving and a Promise-Fulfilling God. What promise of God do you need help remembering this week?

Pray: Pray that we would be people who marvel at the Promise-Keeping God this Advent Season.

Micah 5:1-5a.

¹ Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;

siege is laid against us;

with a rod they strike the judge of Israel

on the cheek.

² 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.

³ 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.

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.

⁵ And he shall be their peace. (ESV)