

A PROPHECY FULFILLED

Micah 5:2

Introduction: What exactly is a "prophecy?" In the Bible there are many prophecies and they are statements made by God's servants about some event that will take place in the future, given under the inspiration of God. God has a part in how and when the prophecies are brought to pass. Micah prophesied that a great "one" would be born in a particular place called Bethlehem. 700 years later his prophecy came to pass. The parents of the Messiah lived in Nazareth before He was born but the ambition of the Roman emperor caused all Jews to return to their "home-town" to be registered. Thus Joseph had to return to his birthplace - Bethlehem. Therefore God brought about another fulfillment of one of the prophecies He had given.

I. THE PLACE OF THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH WAS PROPHESED

1. Micah prophesied that Bethlehem would be the place of the wonderful birth.
 - Bethlehem was a small and unimportant place, but it was the place God wanted and it also had been David's home.
2. The prophecy of the Messiah being born in Bethlehem was well known for Herod's advisors even cited this very passage of Micah to Herod when asked where the Messiah was born.
3. During Jesus' ministry His "enemies" tried to use His birthplace against Him for they thought He had been born in Nazareth since He grew up there. If they were right (which they thought they were), then he could not be the promised Messiah. (Of course they were wrong, as usual).
4. There is no other even so marked with such outstanding evidence:
 - His birth was recorded in Bethlehem's public records.
 - His birth was attested to by an Angel announcing it to shepherds.
 - Then came a host of angels singing to the shepherds about the birth.
 - There was a star that appeared in the East to guide the Magi.
 - The star was certified by Herod's astrologers and the wise men.
 - The birth was marked by the slaughter of infants by Herod.
5. Thus showing why God took such care to preserve His Word.

II. THE MESSIAH'S CHARACTER PROPHESED

1. The external appearance was not much in appearance as to be a ruler.
 - He had poor parents.
 - He had a lowly birthplace.
 - He was a carpenter till early 30's.
 - He had no place He called "home" during His ministry.
 - His death was that of a criminal.
2. As they looked only on the externals, the Jews did not see:
 - The songs at His birth.
 - The miracles.
 - That behind the human veil was something more than "human," a ruler, a King of Kings, the Lord of Lords.

3. The Messiah's Kingdom was not a material (earthly) kingdom.
 - It is a spiritual kingdom.
 - No ordinary human can reign over it.
 - It exists in the hearts of believers in the Messiah.
 - It is a kingdom where the will of its members (believers) are surrendered to Jesus Christ.
 - It is a kingdom of millions of people of all ages, from every place, who are all surrendered to the will of Jesus Christ.
 - The time is coming when all kingdoms, all kings, all nations, all creation shall fall before HIM and call Him "LORD!"

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us therefore adore the MESSIAH, this Jesus the Christ.
 - It is so wonderful that such love could be shown to us.
 - It is so amazing that we, receivers of such love and mercy can feel so little as we profess to believe.
 - Let us meditate upon this truth until a fire is kindled, till we begin to speak of the wonderful works of almighty God.
 - Nothing but praise is heard in heaven, nothing but praise should be heard here on earth.
2. Let us submit to Him.
 - We look for salvation through Jesus.
 - Let us not forget that He is Prince as well as Savior, Ruler as well as Teacher.
 - Let us willingly receive Him and cheerfully dedicate ourselves to His service.
3. CHRISTMAS - the time prophecy was fulfilled that every human being can be a part of.