

SERMON NOTES
Micah 5:1-15
“The Promised Ruler”

Intro:

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
- **Resistance to kingly authority and insistence upon government of the people, by the people, for the people is written into our DNA as Americans**
- **Nationally: We will not have a king to rule over us**
- Individually: We don’t like being told what to do – we want to run our own lives – even when we are making a mess of things
- *Longing to be our own masters – we often end up enslaved to various bad habits or to the will of others*
- One of the most important questions of life is: *Who shall rule over us?*
- From the time of its birth as a nation during the Exodus – until about 1050 BC – Israel had known no king except Yahweh – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – who delivered them from bondage in Egypt
- *After Moses and Joshua, there were judges – but these judges were not kings – Yahweh was their King*
- But it is human nature to resist being told what to do – even by God Himself
- *“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”*
- **They did not submit to the rule of God – each person did whatever seemed right in their own eyes**
- The result was social chaos, national decline, and moral deterioration
- ***This continued until about 1050 BC during the time of Samuel***

The Israelites came to Samuel and said, *“Hey, Samuel, it’s been great, but you’re getting kind of old, and those two sons of yours are nothing but a couple of bums. It’s time for us to have our own king. All the other nations have a king, why not us?”*

Well, Samuel was quite upset with his people, but God told him not to worry about it, and that it was God that they were rejecting, not Samuel. But God told Samuel to give them a stern warning about what it would be like to have a king.

“No worries,” said the Israelites, *“we want a king so we can be like everyone else.”*

Look how prosperous they are! The king gives them everything they need!”

So Samuel gave them their king, Saul, who at first looked to the Israelites like the ideal candidate for the job. But more often than not, Saul disobeyed God, and in fact became an evil, arrogant king who brought misery on his people, just as God had warned.

- ***Then God replaced Saul with David and gave David this covenant promise:***

2 Samuel 7:11-16 ““And now the LORD declares that He will build a house for you (David) —a dynasty of kings! ¹²For when you die, I will raise up one of your descendants, and I will make his kingdom strong. ¹³He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will use other nations to punish him. ¹⁵But my unfailing love will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed before you. ¹⁶Your dynasty and your kingdom will continue for all time before me, and your throne will be secure forever.””

- ***The Messiah – the ideal King – whose Kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom – would be a descendant of David***
- ***And more immediately, David’s son, Solomon, did in fact build the Temple in Jerusalem, and he reigned over a powerful kingdom***
- ***But after Solomon’s death, the kingdom was split into two weaker kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel headed by kings who were not of David’s line and led the people into idolatry – and the southern kingdom of Judah headed by descendants of David – some of whom were God-fearing and some were evil***
- ***By 701 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel had been destroyed by the kingdom of Assyria (Nineveh – Iraq) – and the armies of Assyria had overrun much of Judah and were now standing at the gates of Jerusalem***
- ***King Sennacherib of Assyria was taunting King Hezekiah of Judah to surrender or else his army would destroy Jerusalem just as they had destroyed Samaria – the capital of Israel***
- ***But Hezekiah – with the encouragement of Isaiah and Micah – put his trust in the LORD to deliver Jerusalem from the hands of the Assyrians***
- ***And in response to Hezekiah’s faith, the LORD sent a powerful angel to destroy the Assyrian army and send Sennacherib back to Assyria with his tail between his legs***
- ***Micah 5 was written at the time of the Assyrian troops besieging Jerusalem, and Hezekiah being taunted by Sennacherib:***

Micah 5:1 Mobilize! Marshal your troops! The enemy is laying siege to Jerusalem. With a rod they will strike the leader of Israel in the face.

- *That is the historical context for the one of the greatest prophecies of the coming Messiah – written 700 years before the birth of Jesus*
- *This is just one of dozens of prophecies fulfilled by Jesus – it is one of the evidences that Jesus is the Son of God and that the Bible is the Word of God*

I. THE PROMISED RULER FROM BETHLEHEM (Micah 5)

Micah 5:2, 4-5 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.”

⁴And He will arise and shepherd His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.
And they will remain,
Because at that time He will be great
To the ends of the earth.

⁵This One will be our peace.

- ***Think of Jerusalem being like Chicago***
- ***Think of Judah being like Illinois and Iowa***
- ***Think of Ephrathah being like Clinton County***
- ***And think of Bethlehem being like DeWitt***
- **The proper birthplace for a king of Israel would be Jerusalem**
- ***But according to this prophecy, the Messiah – God’s Anointed King and Davidic Ruler who would reign forever in God’s coming Kingdom – would be born in the little town of Bethlehem***
- **From Bethlehem the Messiah would go forth for God to be His Ruler over Israel**

Micah 5:2 (NIV) ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

- ***Whose origins are from of old – from ancient times – what does that mean?***

- At the very least – it points to the ancient line of David as the Messiah’s ancestry
- ***But the Hebrew word can mean either “ancient times” or “from eternity” – we’ll explore that meaning a little later***

Micah 5:3 (NIV) ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

- *This verse indicates that the Messiah would be born in the midst of a national distress such as was the case during the brutal Roman occupation of Israel during the time of Christ*

Micah 5:4 – 5a (NIV) ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be their peace.

- ***In contrast to many rulers of Israel and other nations who abuse their power and oppress their people – the Messiah will be a Good Shepherd who leads, protects and provides for the needs of the people by relying upon the strength of the LORD and ruling by the sovereign authority of God’s name***
- **True security and peace are found under the rule of the Messiah**
- Other world rulers are not powerful enough or compassionate enough or wise enough or righteous enough to provide for the peace and security and well-being of their people
- ***But the kingdom of the Messiah will be a blessing for all those who submit to His rule***
- ***And though the Messiah is God’s Anointed Ruler over Israel – the reign of the Messiah will not be limited to the land or people of Israel***
- ***His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth***

Psalm 2:6 - 8 (NIV) ⁶ “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

- ***The Kingdom of the Messiah will be a universal kingdom and an everlasting kingdom***
- ***There is One Messiah who will be God’s ruler over all the peoples and nations of the earth – and He will come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David***

II. THE BIRTH OF THE PROMISED RULER IN BETHLEHEM (Matthew 2)

- 7 centuries passed from the time of Micah's prophecy – 1000 years from the time of God's promise to David – and still no Messiah
- *The land of Judah was ruled by the occupying Romans*
- Herod the Great was appointed King of Judea by the Roman Senate – but he was not of the line of David – in fact, he was not even Jewish
- *It was he who rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem – for his own glory, not God's*
- Herod the Great was a ruthless ruler – murdering his wife and three sons and several other extended family members
- *He cared about only one thing – his own power and his own glory*

- Then one day King Herod heard some disturbing news about some visitors to Jerusalem – *some Magi – wise men – probably astrologers – from the East – perhaps from Babylon – who had been led by an extraordinary sign in the heavens to search for a child born the king of the Jews*

- Herod knew that if a baby had been born with royal blood, then his rule would be threatened since he was not even a Jew, let alone a descendant of David

Herod the Great's *m.o.* for dealing with threats to his rule was simple: kill them

--*Herod=s paranoid, ruthless reactions to the threat of a Davidic king are infamous*

-Herod called together the Jewish scholars to discover where the Messiah was to be born

-*All devout Jews knew that the prophet Micah had predicted hundreds of years before that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem*

So Herod then tried to employ the Magi as his spies to report to him the location of the child – and when the Magi foiled that plot – *Herod then had innocent children slaughtered throughout Bethlehem – hoping to kill the Messiah that way*

- Of course, more than human evil was at work in Herod's plot to kill the baby Jesus
- *The birth of Jesus the Messiah was a threat not only to King Herod's rule – but also to Satan's rule – and Satan worked through Herod to try to kill Jesus*

But God delivered Jesus by means of an angelic warning in a dream of Joseph's

- *Both the Scriptures and the special star pointed to Bethlehem as the birthplace of the king of the Jews*

God provided a special light that led the Magi from the East first to the capital city Jerusalem and to King Herod, and then on to Bethlehem, the prophesied birth-place of the Messiah - the King of the Jews - with the star finally stopping over the house where the Christ-child was – *not the night of his birth – but some time later*

The Magi followed God=s light right to the Christ-child

--When they saw the child, they did more than pay homage to a prince - they bowed down and worshiped the One who is the King of the Universe and God in human flesh

-those who seek God and follow God=s light all the way will eventually find themselves bowing the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ

III. THE ORIGINS OF GOD'S RULER

- *Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but his existence did not begin in Bethlehem*

Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.

- One of the biggest controversies surrounding Jesus is: *Where is Jesus from?*
--He was called Jesus of Nazareth (town in Galilee) / He was born in Bethlehem of Judea (the town of King David) – *but where is he from?*
- **What did Jesus himself say about his origins?**

John 3:13 ¹³ **No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.**

John 16:28 ²⁸ **I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”**

Where is Jesus from?

--He does not speak of himself merely as being born in Bethlehem and then growing up in Nazareth

--rather he speaks of heaven as his home from all eternity – and earth as a sojourn – *a visit* – before returning home to the Father

- Mohammed's existence had a beginning – in Mecca
- Siddhartha Gautama the Buddha had a beginning – in Nepal
- Moses had a beginning – in Goshen in Egypt
- *But Jesus had no beginning – He is the eternal Word who became flesh in Bethlehem*

John 1:1-2 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning.

- *Christmas celebrates the human birth of the eternal Son who has no beginning*
- Larry King was once asked which one person from history he would choose to interview and which one question he would ask
- he said he would like to ask Jesus Christ this question: *Are you indeed virgin born?*
- The answer to that question, said King, would explain history for me*

The virgin birth explains how Jesus could be born and yet not have a beginning

- If Jesus was virgin born, then his origin is from heaven and his father is God
- If Jesus was virgin born, then Jesus is God in human flesh*
- If Jesus was virgin born, then Jesus could live a pure and sinless life free from the Adamic sin nature and thereby qualify to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Every other man who ever lived and spoke about heaven or eternal life, spoke from the perspective of a mortal, time-bound earth-dweller who one day hoped to visit heaven

--*but the words of Jesus are the words of an eternal heaven-dweller who visited earth just long enough to reveal God to us and to die and rise again for our salvation*

- *Jesus claimed to be the bread of God come down from heaven to give eternal life to those who believe in him*
- Abraham never claimed anything so outrageous as that – neither did Moses – neither did any of the prophets
- “*Are you saying you’re greater than our father Abraham?* The Jewish religious leaders asked. ***Who do you think you are?***”
- **Jesus:** “*Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day – the day of the coming of God’s Messiah and Savior. And he saw it by faith and was glad.*”
- **Jews:** *You are only about 30 years old, and yet you claim that you and Abraham have met although Abraham lived almost 2000 years before you?!!*

John 8:58 (NIV) ⁵⁸**“I tell you the truth,”** Jesus answered, **“before Abraham was born, I am!”**

Translation: *“There never was a time when I was not. There never will be a time when I will not be. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. I existed long before Abraham was born. I was with God in the beginning, at the creation of the heavens and the earth.*

--You are mistaken in thinking of me as a 30-year-old man who is nothing more than another prophet. I am Lord of the prophets. I am the Maker of heaven and earth. I am the eternal God in human flesh.”

“From Bethlehem One will go forth for God to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

IV. THE DELIVERANCE OF GOD’S RULER

Micah 5:6, 9 (NIV) ⁶ He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he invades our land and marches into our borders... ⁹ Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.

- *The Assyrians here stand for the enemies and oppressors of God’s People*
- **Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans – all oppressors of God’s People**
- **And behind those mortal enemies – the arch-enemy of God’s People – Satan**
- **We tend to think of Jesus as the Savior who saves each of us from our sins**
- **And He is that – but much more than that**
- **Salvation is much more than the forgiveness of our sins**
- **To fully appreciate Jesus and his salvation– we need to see the big picture:**
- **God created the heavens and the earth and gave dominion of the earth to man whom He created in His image**
- **Through the sin of Adam and Eve, that dominion was lost to Satan**
- **Though God is still Sovereign King of the Universe – the dominion He entrusted to man was transferred to Satan, the ruler of this world**
- **This world that was created good by God is now so corrupted by sin, death and Satan’s rule that Adam and Eve would never recognize it**
- **The reason the world is such a mess – and the reason why our lives and our families get in such messes – is because we are living in a fallen world under**

the dominion of sin, death and Satan – and we are powerless to liberate ourselves – *We are like Narnia under the tyranny of the White Witch*

- ***But God has not abandoned planet earth – nor has He abandoned us to the tyranny of sin, death and Satan***
- **It is God’s purpose to restore dominion of the earth to man, and to restore man to the likeness of God, and to restore the earth to its original goodness**
- ***But the dominion that was lost by a man (Adam) must be regained by a Man***
- **That Man would be the Messiah – God would send His Own Son from heaven to be born as a human in Bethlehem in order to engage Satan in combat for the control of the world**

- ***The combat began with Herod’s attack on the Bethlehem babies, continued through the temptations of Christ in the wilderness, continued through Jesus’ ministry of healing and delivering those oppressed by the devil, continued at Gethsemane and all the way to Golgotha’s Cross***

- **At 3:00 that Friday afternoon, it appeared that Satan had won when God’s Man was pronounced dead**
- ***The ruler of this world celebrated with his minions when God’s Man was buried in the tomb that was secured by Roman guards***
- **But the satanic victory celebration came to a sudden halt on that Sunday morning when the bars of death were snapped like cotton thread**

- ***It was impossible for the Son of God to be held by death’s lord – Jesus Christ rose from the grave as the Victor over death and over Satan***

- **By means of his sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, Jesus the Messiah has delivered us from the tyranny of sin, death and Satan**
- ***Already the new creation has begun – already the Spirit of Christ indwells Christ’s followers – transforming them into the likeness of Christ***
- **Already the power and authority of God’s Kingdom are being released through the church – the body of Christ – and people are being saved and healed and delivered and transformed**
- ***And one day – at His Second Coming – Jesus will destroy all evil forces and will restore to his servants the dominion over the earth which Jesus has won for us by his death and resurrection***
- **When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior – that becomes your destiny – a new life now – and one day sharing in Christ’s glory and everlasting reign**

V. THE PRESENT & FUTURE REIGN OF GOD’S RULER

- *Yes, the Son of God was born as a helpless little baby in a Bethlehem manger*
- *Yes, God's Son came to earth as the Lamb of God who sacrificed his life to take away the sins of the world*
- *Yes, Jesus the Messiah is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep*
- **But first and foremost the Messiah is a Ruler – God's Anointed King who has been given a universal and everlasting reign**

1 Peter 3:22 ²²Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers are bowing before him.

1 Corinthians 15:25 ²⁵For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For the Scriptures say, "God has given him authority over all things."

- *Though defeated, Satan refuses to surrender*
- *The battle rages on for control of the earth – and control of our allegiance*
- *There will come a time when it will appear that Satan is once again winning the battle when the Antichrist rules the earth and oppresses the Christ-followers*
- *But then at the appointed time Jesus Christ – the King of kings – shall come down from heaven in power and glory – and he shall destroy the Antichrist – and shall consume all evil powers with the fire of His holiness*

II Thessalonians 1:7-10 He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power ¹⁰when he comes to receive glory and praise from his holy people.

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ – and He will reign for ever and ever – with His people

- **The Word of God is clear: In the end, there is only One King of kings and Lord of lords who is given authority, glory and sovereign power over all the earth– indeed, over all of creation – visible and invisible – in heaven and on earth – namely, Jesus the Messiah**
- *You want to be sure that you are on His side*

Conclusion:

Micah 5:4 - 5 (NIV) ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be their peace.

- **Jesus is the Prince of Peace – He is our peace when He is our ruler**
- ***Jesus is our Shalom*** – Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety soundness, tranquility, prosperity, fullness, rest, harmony
- ***Does Shalom describe your life right now?***
- ***Are you experiencing harmony in your marriage and family relationships and friendships and work relationships?***
- ***Are you experiencing serenity of mind and heart in the midst of stress?***
- ***Are you fully reconciled in your relationship with God – with all sins forgiven and with the freedom to draw near to God with a clear conscience?***
- ***Can you face the future with a confident hope based on the assurance of God's love and care for you?***
- ***Are you experiencing shalom?***
- **We experience Shalom to the degree that we submit to the rule of the Prince of Peace over every area of our life**
- ***Where is there discord or unrest or brokenness in your life right now?***
- **These are the result of self-rule – these are the result of living under the dominion of sin, death and Satan – *these are the result of not allowing the Prince of Peace to rule over your heart and life***
- ***Who or what will rule over you?***
- **Money? A bad habit? Another person? Self? A sin you cannot overcome? Lust? Anger? Anxiety? People-pleasing? Alcohol? Sex? Fear of death?**
- ***Today will you bow the knee to Jesus Christ as God's Ruler and will you accept Him as your Savior?***
- **Will you admit that you have been running your own life and as a result you are not experiencing Shalom?**
- ***Will you put your trust in Jesus Christ and his death on the Cross to take away all your sins and make you clean before God?***
- **Will you invite Jesus Christ into your life to reign on the throne of your heart as your Lord and King?**
- ***Will you submit to His loving rule over every area of your life?***

- **Will you ask Jesus Christ to set you free from bondage to sin, death and Satan?**
- **Will you ask the Spirit of God to apply the healing power of the love of Christ to all the wounded and empty and broken places of your heart?**
- *Will you invite Jesus Christ into all your relationships and ask Him to bring peace and harmony and reconciliation as you commit to following His ways?*

Salvation Prayer

“In Christ Alone”