## Out of Bethlehem: Micah 5:2-15; Whence Jesus? (per John's Gospel)

Dr. John H. Niemelä Water of Life Bible Class December 14, 2023

#### Introduction

#### Exposition

# The Coming Messiah (5:2-5a)

- <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting."
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and feed *His flock* In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup> And this *One* shall be peace.

# The Reigning Messiah (5:5b-15)

- <sup>5b</sup> When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men.
- <sup>6</sup> They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver *us* from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.
- <sup>7</sup> Then the remnant of Jacob Shall be in the midst of many peoples, Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on the grass, That tarry for no man Nor wait for the sons of men.
- <sup>8</sup> And the remnant of Jacob Shall be among the Gentiles, In the midst of many peoples, Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Who, if he passes through, Both treads down and tears in pieces, And none can deliver.
- <sup>9</sup> Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries, And all your enemies shall be cut off.
- <sup>10</sup> "And it shall be in that day," says the LORD, "That I will cut off your horses from your midst And destroy your chariots.
- <sup>11</sup> I will cut off the cities of your land And throw down all your strongholds.

<sup>12</sup> I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you shall have no soothsayers. <sup>13</sup> Your carved images I will also cut off, And your *sacred* pillars from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands;

# Why doesn't John's Gospel say, "Jesus is a Galilean resident who was born in Bethlehem? Nathanael's Thoughts

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote-- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

## Philip's Response to Nathanael

Can anything good be from Nazareth?

## Leaders' Ignorance of Jesus' Origins

John 7:28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "Also, do you know Me? And do you know where I am from? I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.

# **Misplaced Objection**

John 7:41b Some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

#### Jesus Knows; the Leaders Don;t

John 8:14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

## **Contrasting Origins**

John 8:23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

#### Pilate's Question

John 19:9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

#### Conclusion

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> I will pluck your wooden images from your midst; Thus I will destroy your cities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury On the nations that have not heard."