

But thou, Bethlehem
Ephratah, though thou be little
among thousands of Judah,
yet out of thee shall He come
forth unto Me that is to be
ruler in Israel.

Micah 5:2a



A Most Amazing Prophecy

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6

Micah the prophet foretold that the Messiah, the eternal One, would come forth from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Why is this prophecy so amazing?

- 1) **It is amazing because of the long time span between the prophecy and its fulfillment.** Micah penned these words about 700 years before Christ was born. He was guided by the God who knows the end from the beginning. This is comparable to someone living 175 years before Christopher Columbus predicting that President Donald Trump would be born in Queens, New York. Incredible!
- 2) **It is amazing because of the great odds against choosing the correct birth town.** Bethlehem was an insignificant shepherding village, just one town out of thousands in the Holy Land, and yet Micah pinpointed the exact birthplace.
- 3) **It is amazing because of what had to happen in order for Christ to be born in Bethlehem.** Mary and Joseph did not live in Bethlehem, but in Nazareth. To get them to the right place at the right time required nothing less than a decree from the Roman Emperor, resulting in Joseph traveling to his ancestral town (Luke 2:1-4).
- 4) **It is amazing because it is so simple to understand.** There is nothing complicated about this prophecy. Seven hundred years after the prophecy was given certain Hebrew chief priests and scribes were asked where the Messiah would be born (Matt. 2:4-6). Even though these men were unbelieving, yet they knew the correct answer based on Micah's simple and clear prophecy.
- 5) **It is amazing because it is so ignored today.** Jewish scholars rarely speak of Micah's stunning prophecy, nor does it receive much attention from the Gentile world. This spectacular prophecy gives undeniable evidence of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, and yet it is largely ignored by an unbelieving world. Yet to us, "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23).

