

## MICAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Micah chapter 4 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we saw last time, Micah was a prophet both to the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah and he was a contemporary with Isaiah, Hosea and Amos. His ministry was from around 740 B. C. to 687 B. C. and he prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Last time we broke the book down or divided the book into three different sections. The first section speaks of ***THE COMING JUDGMENT*** and we looked at this last time as we studied Micah chapters 1 through 3. The second section speaks of ***THE COMING DELIVERER*** and we will be looking at that this evening in Micah chapters 4 and 5. And the third section speaks of ***TRUSTING IN THE LORD*** and we read of that in Micah chapters 6 and 7 and we will deal with this as we conclude Micah next week.

Remember from our last study the judgment that was coming upon God's people for their wickedness and their failure to return to the Lord. Things looked very bad, there was no hope, no light, only darkness. In fact, Micah chapter 3 ends with these words, "**Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest.**" Micah 3:12.

Not too encouraging nor was it intended to be. It was a warning by God to His people to return to Him, to turn from their sin but they refused and judgment came upon them! The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B. C. and they went into captivity. Also, the Babylonians came in and destroyed the Southern Kingdom of Judah in their third and final assault upon that nation in 586 B. C. and they too went into captivity. Jerusalem and the Temple were flattened, nothing more than a heap of ruins. But God is not going to leave them in darkness for the end of the story there is light, there is hope, there is restoration, it is wonderful. That is what we will see tonight, a glorious look into the future Kingdom Age.

So this evening, as we look at ***THE COMING DELIVERER***, and we will see both His first and second coming in these passages, let's begin reading in Micah chapter 4, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

### **MICAH 4**

#### VERSES 1-3

1. First of all let's deal with the timeframe of these events and then we will deal with the events. Micah tells us that “**... it shall come to pass in the latter days ...**” This is speaking of a future time for Micah and even for us. It is speaking of the Kingdom Age when Jesus Christ returns after the seven-year Tribulation Period and He sets up His Kingdom on this earth where He will rule and reign for 1,000 years!

And during the Kingdom Age the Lord will rebuild His Temple, the Millennial Temple and people will come to worship the Lord there in Jerusalem. Now as you read this keep in mind what we read in Micah 3:12, **“Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.”** Now the land that was desolate, that was destroyed, that Temple that was leveled to the ground is going to be restored by the Lord!

What destroyed the land and the Temple? The people did by their sin and refusal to repent and return to the Lord. Now, in the Kingdom Age we see both Jews and Gentiles coming together to worship the Lord, which tells me that they have repented of their sin and received Jesus as their Lord and Savior prior to the Lord’s return during the Tribulation Period. Restoration is what we are seeing and that is God’s desire for our lives and for this earth as He will restore this earth to a fruitful land once again!

2. Now some like to say that this is figurative, it really is never going to happen, the Lord is not coming back to rule and reign for 1,000 years! Others say that this has happened or that it is spiritual.

But as you look at the text there is no way that this has taken place and if it is figurative, what is the point? In fact, you can read in Ezekiel chapters 40-48, these last nine chapters of the book of Ezekiel and the focus is on the Millennial Temple! I am not sure why God would spend some nine chapters describing the Temple, the worship in the Temple and the land around the Temple if it was not real, but nevertheless, some believe that way.

And regarding this Millennial Temple, it is not only here in Micah and Ezekiel that we read about it. We see the Millennial Temple mentioned in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah and Malachi. (Isaiah 5:6-7, 66:20-23, Jeremiah 33:18, Zechariah 14:16-21, Malachi 3:3-4).

Again, to see this as only symbolic you have to ignore the great detail that Ezekiel goes through in describing the Temple and all that is associated with it. There is nothing that suggests that this is symbolic or figurative but it is very real and God wants us to take it very literally.

3. These three verses we have read here in Micah chapter 4 we see repeated in Isaiah 2:1-3, which may seem strange. But keep in mind that Micah and Isaiah were contemporary prophets and thus, the Lord was speaking to both of them regarding this restoration, the Kingdom Age with the Temple and the absence of war! It drives home the point that this is real, that this is going to happen because we see by the mouth of two witnesses this is established!

4. As you look at verse 2 you see that the nations are gathering together to go to the mountain of the Lord to worship Him in His Temple! I don't know if this is a summer vacation for these people or what but what a trip that will be!

And keep in mind that the Kingdom Age is an answer to our prayers for Jesus told us to pray, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”** Matthew 6:10. And God will answer that prayer, one day that will come to pass, the Kingdom will be established for 1,000 years! And after the Millennial Reign the Lord will create a new heavens and a new earth with a New Jerusalem, which will be the eternal state with the Lord.

5. Let me read over verse 3 again because it is an interesting verse that is misused today. It says, **“He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.”** Micah 4:3.

What I find amazing is that outside the United Nations building in New York there is a wall that has these words, *“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they learn war anymore.”* They use the Isaiah reference, but like I have said, both Isaiah and Micah share these words!

Now the reason I find that this is funny is that they want this peace but they don’t want the God who can bring this peace, Jesus Christ. You see, they left off the first part of the verse that says, **“He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off . . .”**

Do you see the problem with what they put on their wall? They believe that they can bring in the peace of the Kingdom Age through their efforts apart from God. They use the Word of God and yet they don’t acknowledge the God of the Word, Jesus Christ!

Now some may try to argue that man can bring about peace, we just have to work together! How is that going? It is not going well nor has it gone well and apart from Christ it won’t work. Even during the Tribulation Period when the people of the world unite to make the Antichrist their leader, he comes in as a man of peace but then comes sudden destruction!

It is as we are told in Isaiah 57:19-21, **“I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,’ Says the Lord, ‘And I will heal him.’ But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace,’ Says my God, ‘for the wicked.”**

I think that is pretty clear. You can't have peace apart from God, true peace that is and this world will never experience peace like there will be in the Kingdom Age! We long for that day and we pray, "**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**"

Matthew 6:10.

#### VERSES 4-5

1. This phrase, "**But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid**" is an expression that speaks of prosperity and peace and it is looking again to the Kingdom Age!

You see, in the latter days there will be true peace, no fear, plenty of food. You won't have to lock your doors because the Lord is reigning and He will put down all rebellion for righteousness will flow from His throne. You doubt that? I wouldn't for the Lord says He has spoken it and you can take that to the bank!

We see this spoken of in Isaiah 11:6-9, "**The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.**"

What a glorious day that will be where peace will fill the land and the land will bring forth abundant fruit for all to partake of! And the reason will be that the Lord will be with us and He will rule and reign with a rod of iron!

2. Now verse 5 is troubling to some. It says, **“For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.”** They see this idea of people walking after **“his god”** as being in the Kingdom Age, but I don’t think so. Yes, at the end of the Kingdom Age Satan will be loosed for a season and those who were born during this 1,000-year period of time, born during the Kingdom Age will have to make a choice, the Lord or Satan and once that is done, the Lord will judge them and cast them into the Lake of Fire with Satan and then we move to the Eternal State! But this rebellion is at the end of the Kingdom Age, not during!

David Guzik wrote, “In the Millennial reign, the inhabitants of earth will not be compelled to follow the LORD. Some will *walk each in the name of his god*; yet those who do *walk in the name of the LORD* will enjoy great blessing and peace.”

I can’t imagine the Lord putting up with that and if that did take place in the Kingdom Age can you imagine the wickedness that would be seen! I like the way the Amplified Bible puts this verse because I think it puts forth the thought of what Micah is saying. It says, **“For all the peoples [now] walk every man in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.”**

In other words, right now, as in Micah’s day, people are serving various god’s, even though many times they don’t think of them that way. Whatever has a hold of your life, whatever is a passion for you outside of the Lord, things that draw you away from the Lord can become a god to you. For instance, your job, a car, money, sports and-so-on. The thing to notice here is that was then but when the Lord comes **“we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.”**

VERSES 6-8

1. Keep in mind that both the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the Northern Kingdom of Israel were going into captivity for their sin and refusal to repent. And as some look at that they wonder where God was at? He was right there waiting for them to repent and return to Him and they didn't and thus, judgment came! That same attitude is seen today as J. Vernon McGee shows us. He said,

I had a conversation with a Jewish man in front of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem several years ago. He was one of the Jews who had come out of Nazi persecution alive, although he had spent time in a concentration camp. He said that he had become an atheist. He asked, "Where was God during the time of our trouble? Why didn't He deliver us?"

I told him, "To tell the truth, I think God was around. Maybe you would like to blame Him for the trouble you had."

He replied, "I certainly do. If there is a God, He would have responded to us."



I said, “No, because you folk had an opportunity to know Him and obey Him way ahead of the rest of us. When your nation had a knowledge of the living and true God, my ancestors were heathens. One tribe was in Germany, and the other tribe was in Scotland. They were dirty, filthy, ignorant pagans, but you had the *light*. Finally some of your people brought the light to my people, and I’m grateful for it. But God has made it very clear in your own writings, your own books, that when you have a knowledge of the true and living God, you cannot turn your back on Him without being punished. If you will read your writings, you will find that not only can you blame Him for your trouble, but He is also not through with you as a nation. He intends to regather you. By that time you will have learned (and obviously you have not learned it yet) that this is God’s universe and that you cannot reject the knowledge of Himself that He has given you without suffering His judgment.”

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Vol. III, pp. 786-787

How true that is. We like to blame God for what happens to us but we don’t want to take the responsibility ourselves. That is just the heart of man, always looking for someone to blame, even God!

2. Here we see the restoration of God’s people and that tells me that they did repent and return to the Lord, they did ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior and we see that during the Tribulation Period that the nation of Israel turns to Jesus!

Now keep in mind that God's people, who have been battered and bruised, will one day be re-gathered in the land never to be removed. You see, I do believe the Jews being in the land of Israel today is a partial fulfillment of what God has said but the complete fulfillment is in the Kingdom Age. In 1948 this came to pass, Israel became a nation once again but also keep in mind that during the Tribulation Period some two-thirds of the Jewish people will be destroyed by the Antichrist, over 11 million Jews! Only one-third will make it through this fire of judgment and many will be spared in the rock city of Petra.

In Luke 21:24 Jesus said, “**. . . And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**” I don't believe that the times of the Gentiles are over yet, even though Israel is in the land. I don't believe it will be over until the Lord comes and establishes His Kingdom on the earth. Until that time the Jews will feel all kinds of persecution from Gentile nations. But once the Lord comes He will not only re-gather them in the land but establish them in it forever!

How can I be so sure? Because the Lord said, “**To you it shall come**” not might come!

#### VERSES 9-10

1. Micah wrote this speaking of the time of Hezekiah's reign, who was a godly King in Judah. And during his reign the Assyrians, after defeating the Northern Kingdom of Israel, began to move southward into Judah. But God spared the Southern Kingdom of Judah, killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night!

So I don't think this is speaking of Hezekiah's day, but a future King, future leaders, future people who will cry over the destruction that is coming upon them. The Assyrians did not take them captive but another nation will and when this happens Micah likens the people of God, the Jews and this judgment that will come upon them like a woman in labor. You see, once it starts it won't stop until the process is completed. And, interestingly enough, the next verse tells us who this enemy is that will come against the Southern Kingdom of Judah. We don't have to guess; God will use the Babylonians to bring judgement upon the Southern Kingdom of Judah! But again, I believe that is only a partial fulfillment, I believe that this is looking on into the Tribulation Period and the Antichrist!

Now keep in mind that at this point the Babylonians were not a world power, the Assyrians were. And the Lord is telling us that the Assyrians will not be the ones to capture the Southern Kingdom of Judah but the Babylonians will be, it was a future event and it came to pass just as God said.

2. As verse 10 closes it does so with hope. Yes, they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians for their sin and refusal to repent and return to the Lord but there will be a day of restoration, God will deliver them from this captivity! Thus, out of this travail and suffering they will end up with great joy because **“the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.”**

What a great comfort that should be to each of us. Many times our sin brings us into captivity but the Lord is there, He wants to restore us, He wants to deliver us but there may be great pain, great suffering as we are walking in sin, in rebellion against God. But when we repent and return we see the deliverance that He can bring to our lives!

VERSES 11-13

1. I don't think we are looking at the Babylonian captivity any longer but on into the future, the later days you might say. It does not fit with either the Assyrians or the Babylonians. What does fit is a future time when a multi-national force will come down upon Israel. Who is this?

Some say it is the Muslim nations spoken of in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, allied with Russia, that will come down upon Israel, and God will destroy 5/6 of this multi-national force. Israel will be victorious. That is a possibility

The other possibility is that this is speaking of the Battle of Armageddon for the armies of the Antichrist will come against Israel and the Lord. So which one is it? I will share with you what I think Micah is speaking of but I will not be dogmatic about which battle this is.

Listen again to Micah 4:13 because I think it gives us an indication which battle this is. We are told, **“Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; For I will make your horn iron, And I will make your hooves bronze; You shall beat in pieces many peoples; I will consecrate their gain to the Lord, And their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.”**

During the Battle of Armageddon Israel is not going to rise up, they are in hiding in Petra. So I don't think this is speaking of the Battle of Armageddon but this war found in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39!

You see, from this verse it seems like God will empower Israel to defeat the many nations that will come against her. One write describes it like this, “The ox pulling the threshing-sledge represents the people of God. She is supernaturally equipped with *horns of iron*, symbolizing her invincibility, and with *hoofs of bronze*, with which she treads the pride and pretensions of the enemy exceedingly fine.” (Waltke)

In reading this verse and seeing that Israel is part of this battle, I think it may indicate this is speaking of the Muslim nations, with Russia, that will come down upon Israel. Again, I am not going to be dogmatic about this, but the Battle of Armageddon is the Lord destroying the enemy alone, with no help from anyone, not even Israel!

In Zechariah 12:1-3 we are told, **“The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”**

And what the Lord spoke to Zechariah we are seeing it start to come to pass in our day, where this tiny nation will become a burdensome stone to all people, to all nations!

2. Let me make one more point before we get to Micah chapter 5. In verse 11 it says, **“... ‘Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion.’”** This is speaking of the nations that have gathered against Israel, Gentile nations.

How can we apply that to our day? Look at the Christian denominations and non-denominations that say that about the Jewish people, that she is **“defiled”** and that God is done with her. They look at the Jews with disdain and hate!

The only way you can come to the conclusion that God is done with Israel is that you have come to that conclusion apart from the Scriptures! God made an everlasting covenant with Israel and if that everlasting covenant is not everlasting, then what about the one that God made with us, is that really everlasting?

In Genesis 17:6-8 the Lord said to Abraham, “**I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**”

Not only has God made an everlasting covenant with Israel, with the Jews but He has given them the land of Canaan, the land of Israel as an everlasting possession! And there are many more verses that show that God is not done with Israel, He is not done with the Jews. In fact, Daniel chapter 9 deals with the first and second coming of Jesus and in the last few verses you can clearly see that God is dealing with the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem in the last days!

Now you may be thinking, “That was in the Old Testament and there is nothing in the New Testament that says that God is still working with the Jews! He is done with them!” Yes, there is! In Romans 11:11-12 we see the fall of the Jews and listen carefully to what Paul is saying, “**I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!**”

Yes, they stumbled, they rejected their Messiah the first time and God is working with Gentiles now. But He is using us to cause the Jews to be jealous of our relationship with God so that they may be drawn back to God through Jesus, their Messiah, the One they will receive when He comes a second time!

Now you still may not be convinced so let's read on in Romans chapter 11 picking up in verse 25 where Paul tells us, "**For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.'**"

Romans 11:25-27.

Paul starts out by saying that he does not want us to be ignorant about the Jews, that we would be wise in our own opinion, we base our own feelings upon the Jews, what we think has happened instead of what the Scriptures say. What does the Scriptures tell us regarding the Jews?

First of all, the Scriptures tell us that they were blind because they rejected Jesus but only in part, it is not a total blindness, they will see again, they will come to Jesus as their Messiah! When will that happen? When "**the fullness of the Gentiles has come in**" or when that last Gentile gets saved and the Lord calls us home, the Rapture of the Church!

Then the Lord will be working again in the nation of Israel and their eyes will be open. How do I know that? Because Paul tells us, "**so all Israel will be saved.**" And their salvation is based upon the fact that God has taken away their sins and that is only accomplished through Jesus Christ!

Is God done with the Jewish people? Absolutely not! May we not say like so many Christians and Christian churches are saying, “. . . ‘**Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion.**’” Remember, God blesses those who bless Israel and He will curse those who don’t!

## **MICAH 5**

### **VERSE 1**

1. This ruler could be Zedekiah who was the last king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah when the Babylonians came in and destroyed the nation in 586 B. C. King Zedekiah was captured and brought to Babylon after he witnessed the execution of his sons, and then they blinded Zedekiah, and off to Babylon he went.

So the picture here is that during a time of Gentile persecution that things looked dark, they looked bad. Is there any hope? Let’s read on and see!

### **VERSE 2**

1. We just read of the persecution of Zedekiah the King of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and things looked dark, they looked black. And even if you fast-forward close to the start of the first century it was still dark as the Jews were under the bondage of Rome. No hope, no light, just darkness!



Then we have this hope of a ruler in Israel who was to be born! And what we see here is just one of the over 300 prophecies of the Lord's First Coming, where He is to be born. Now Ephrathah is an ancient name for the city of Bethlehem. And yes, it is the place where King David was born, Bethlehem but it was a nothing town. In fact, when it says, "**Though you are little among the thousands of Judah**" the idea is that this town was "too little," they could not even gather 1,000 men for war. And yet, this obscure little town was going to bring forth the Messiah - the ruler of Israel!

2. So here in the Old Testament we have the birthplace of the Messiah. By the time we get to the New Testament, did the Jews understand that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, the one in Judah and not the one in the northern part of the land? Absolutely they did. In Matthew 2:5-6, Herod asked the Jewish religious leaders where the birth of the Messiah was to be and we are told, "**So they said to him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'**"

They had the information, they knew what the Scriptures said but they were never moved to go and see their Messiah, other things got in their way! But they did know the Scriptures and they knew that this verse spoke of the coming Messiah of Israel!

3. As we study the Scriptures we clearly see that Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. Not exactly what His disciples thought. Not exactly what the religious leaders thought. Not exactly what the people thought. They were looking for someone to sit on the throne of David and rule and reign with a rod of iron! They wanted the Roman oppression stopped. But, again, He came to give His life, to pay a ransom for our sins. The next time He comes He will come as a Lion from the tribe of Judah to rule and reign on this earth.

Now we do see this often in the Scripture where the Lord's first and second comings are side by side, seeming to point to just one coming. But in between His two comings is something that was hidden to the Old Testaments saints, it was a mystery, and this is the Church Age.

Let me give you an example of what I mean from Luke 4:16-21, where we read **“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.’ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”**

Jesus was quoting from Isaiah chapter 61 but He didn't finish the quote, He stopped at a comma. The rest of the verse goes “**. . . and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.**” Isaiah 61:2b. You see, in Jesus' first coming He came to save that which was lost, to heal people from their sin. But in His second coming He comes as judge, to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. What separates His two comings? The Church Age, the Age of Grace! Once the Church is taken home, raptured unto the Lord, then the 7-year Tribulation Period will begin and then the Lord will come to establish His Kingdom here on the earth at the end of those seven years. In other words, He will be, “**The One to be ruler in Israel.**”

4. Now the Jews feel that Jesus was not their Messiah because their Messiah is not going to be God but a man. And that is interesting because how do you know if this person is the Messiah or not? They tell us, “Because he will help us build our Temple!” That is exactly what the Antichrist will do as you look at Daniel chapter 9. This covenant that he makes with them is the rebuilding of their Temple! And remember the warning that Jesus gave to them as they rejected Him, “**I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.**” John 5:43.

But do the Scriptures show us that the Messiah is going to be more than just a man? You bet they do, even right here in Micah. Notice what it says about Him, “**Whose goings forth have been from of old, From everlasting.**”

That phrase is literally saying that the Messiah existed from beyond the vanishing point. That no matter how far back in time you go, Jesus existed. The eternal God, Jesus Christ, stepped into our time domain and dwelt amongst us as a man, and being fully God.

Many like to deny the deity of Jesus, they will say that He is “a god” but not “Almighty God.” Let me just make one point on this and hopefully it is enough. And keep in mind that the Scriptures are filled with verses that show us He is Almighty God, they show us the deity of Jesus!

But let’s just keep this simple. In Matthew 1:23 we are told, “**Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’**” How clear is that! Who is with us? God is with us! Notice, not “a” god, but “***God!***”

And remember that God became flesh, He dwelt among us to pay the penalty for our sins, God did this for us. It is as Peter tells us “**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.**” I Peter 3:18. Only a perfect sacrifice could be offered for our sins, only God is perfect!

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. (Revelation 22:13) This means from the very beginning, Jesus was there. There was never a time when the Jesus did not exist as I have said!

It is as Clarke wrote, “He was *before* all things. As he is the *Creator* of all things, so he is the *Eternal*, and *no part* of what was *created*. All *being* but God has been *created*. Whatever has *not been created* is God. But Jesus is the *Creator* of all things; therefore he is God; for he cannot be a *part* of his *own work*.”

VERSES 3-5a

1. The Messiah was born in Bethlehem and they rejected Him. Thus, the Lord says if you don't want me then you won't be found by me. "**He shall give them up**" but not forever, there is a remnant who will turn to the Lord!

We see this partially fulfilled in the Babylonian exile and then their return but the ultimate fulfillment will be during the Tribulation Period. You see, Israel rejected the Messiah when He came because He didn't fit into their plan. And thus, Israel will be in travail until she turns back to the Lord! And we have seen that in their history and we continue to see that!

Remember what the Lord said as He looked over Jerusalem and wept because of their rejection of Him and the consequences of their rejection. In Matthew 23:37-39 we are told, "**Q Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**"

One day, like I have said, at the end of the Tribulation Period, the nation will turn to Jesus as their Messiah.

Then, as we move into the Kingdom Age we see the Lord feeding and caring for His people and the people are abiding in Him. And notice it says, "**This One shall be peace.**" Not any man. Not any program. But One Man, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace is the only one who can bring true peace, everlasting peace. Today we can experience the peace **OF** God in our own lives after we first make peace **WITH** God through Jesus Christ! But, one day, and we long for this day, peace will permeate this land!

And did you notice that this One born in Bethlehem, the Messiah not only brings peace, but He *IS* peace. It is as Paul said in Ephesians 2:14, “**For He Himself is our peace . . .**” May we not lose sight of that fact!

#### VERSES 5b-6

1. First of all the near term fulfillment is speaking of the Assyrians who were threatening at this time the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And yes, the Lord did give the Southern Kingdom of Judah a great victory over the Assyrians. The Lord destroyed 185,000 Assyrian troops in just one night!

But I don't believe that this is all Micah is speaking of. I think he is using the Assyrians as an illustration of a future enemy, a future force of nations that will come down upon Israel to destroy her. And it seems from verse 6 that there is a specific person that Micah is speaking of as he says, “**the Assyrian.**” I believe this is speaking of the Antichrist and as strong as this man thinks he is, the Messiah, Jesus will defeat him and it is not a battle, not at all. Almighty God will deal with His creation and it will be swift, it will be quick when the Lord returns!

#### VERSES 7-9

1. Who is the Lord going to deliver? He is going to deliver “**the remnant of Jacob.**” And who is the remnant of Jacob? It is Israel, it is the Jews not Gentiles and if you are still not sure, remember that Gentiles will be with the remnant of Jacob! And it won't be a small deliverance but it will spread as wide as the dew and showers on the grass!

And the wonderful thing is that those Gentiles that are with the Jews will be blessed just because they are around them. Doubt that? Think of it this way, is your place of employment better off having you as an employee, are they being blessed because of you? They should!

Remember Joseph when he was a slave in Egypt, in the home of Potiphar and in Genesis 39:2-6 we read, **“The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. So he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.”** And I think that is the point that Micah is making here.

And not only will the Jews be a blessing but a power also. The times of the Gentiles will be over, no longer will they be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles. This of course is speaking of the Kingdom Age!

#### VERSES 10-15

1. First of all we see God speaking of destroying those things they trusted in for victory, like horses and strong cities. Why was He purging them of these things? So they would look to Him to be the strength of their life!

Then He is going to remove the witchcraft, the fortunetellers from the land. No longer will they seek information from demonic sources. No longer will they look to the demonic world for powers but they will look to the Lord.

Now this may seem strange to you, but we are no different today. We have psychic hotlines, tarot cards, horoscopes and all kinds of demonic activities that we don't even think twice about anymore! And God is saying He is going to bring these things down!

Maybe you heard of the guy who went to a psychic, he wanted to know what the future had in store for him and when he got there he found a sign that said, "Closed due to unforeseen circumstances!" That never happens with God, He knows all things and thus, He is going to remove the vile things of the land!

Then He speaks of removing the idols that people were worshiping. You see, instead of worshiping things that were born out of the imaginations of an evil heart, God is saying those things will be done away with, they need to worship the true and living God instead of these false gods.

Now for those who refuse to turn to the Lord, they will see His wrath, He will pour out His vengeance on them.

2. As we have seen in our study this evening, things may have looked dark and hopeless but we have seen ***THE COMING DELIVERER*** – Jesus Christ. As we close this evening let's look at Psalm 2 beginning in verse 1. In this Psalm we see the foolishness of man who rebels against God and refuses to repent and get right with Him.



The Psalmist says, **“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: ‘Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.’ I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”**

All that is needed is to **“Kiss the Son”** or to bow before the Lord and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior of your life and you will be blessed. You will not see His wrath! The pre-labor pains are starting; the Tribulation Period is coming and as those labor pains get more and more intense they will give way or give birth to the Kingdom Age! Are you ready? ***THE DELIVER IS COMING!***

## Outside the United Nations building in New York

