

WCBC WORSHIP SERVICE - DECEMBER 9, 2018

TOPIC: Christmas In The Old Testament

Part 2: *The Ruler From Ephrathah!*

TEXT: Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2:1-6

INTRO: "*Ephrathah/Ephrath*" = 10 times mentioned in the Bible and literally means "Bethlehem" - Gen. 35:16, 19

Micah's message was about God's divine judgment and deliverance on both the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel because of their corrupt political and religious leaders. And here in verse 2 Micah 5, he talks about the coming of a Ruler from Bethlehem Ephrathah who will be their Deliverer!

I. WHO IS THE RULER FROM EPHRATHAH?

Answer: Jesus Himself! - v.2 cf. Gen. 49:10

1. Because He was born in Bethlehem - Matthew 2:1
2. Because He came from the "*clans of Judah*" - Matthew 1:1-3
3. Because He holds a scepter fit for a ruler - Psalm 45:6 cf. Hebrews 1:8

Note: Scepter = a symbol of authority! - Esther 4:11

II. WHEN DID THE RULER FROM EPHRATHAH COME?:

Answer: From eternity past! - v.2

1. Confirmed by the Lord Jesus Himself - John 8:58
2. Attested by John The Baptist -John 1:15; Luke 1:36
3. Proclaimed by John The Apostle - John 1:1,14

Note: Jesus was from the "*everlasting beginning!*" - John 1:1

III. WHY DID THE RULER FROM EPHRATHAH COME?:

Answer: To be the God of Peace! - v.5a

1. To bring peace! -v.5a; Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14
 - A. Peace WITH God - Romans 5:1, 10

B. Peace OF God - Philippians 4:7

- Pastors & Wives' Appreciation Celebration!

2. To satisfy man's hunger forever! - John 6:35

Note: "*Bethlehem*" means "House of Bread!"

CONCLUSION: "*Ephrathah/Ephrath!*"

Science & Prophecy!

In his book, *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner applies the modern science of probability to just eight prophecies regarding Christ. He says, "The chance that any man might have ...fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th. That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (one hundred quadrillion)!" Stoner suggests that "we take 10 to the 17th silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now, mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly... Blindfold a man and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up that one marked silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one?" Stoner concludes, "Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing those eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man,...providing they wrote them in their own wisdom!" - Peter Stoner

Verse For Today

"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 old, from ancient times!" - Micah 5:2

Food For Thought

"Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!"

Source: Unknown

