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## Christmas 2019 Series #1 The Shepherd Prophecy

**Micah 5:1-4** <sup>1</sup>Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. <sup>2</sup>"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." <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

### I. Here are details of this prophecy.

A. Israel will be subject to another nation before the Messiah comes. V. 1, 3

B. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, Ephrathah the city of David. V. 2 It was in the land of Judah. There were two Bethlehems

**Joshua 19:15-16** <sup>15</sup>Included were Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah and Bethlehem. There were twelve towns and their villages. <sup>16</sup>These towns and their villages were the inheritance of Zebulun, clan by clan. (NIV 84)

C. His origins are ancient. V. 2

**Daniel 7:13** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. (NIV 84)

D. Yet he will have a point in time in which he is born of a woman. V. 3

E. There will be a united Kingdom of God. V. 3

F. He will be both shepherd and king. V. 4

### II. Here are some basic thoughts on prophecy.

A. Old Testament prophecy regarding the Messiah often has aspects to it that Christ did not fulfill with his first coming. V. 4

B. Many prophetic passages have multiple fulfillments. V. 1, 3 Also, consider John the Baptist being the Elijah that was to come.

**Malachi 4: 1-6** Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of

your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." (NIV 84)

**Matthew 17:11-13** Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist. (NIV 84)

### III. How can we apply this to our lives?

- A. Beware of teachers who teach that all biblical prophecy is fulfilled!

**Revelation 22:18-21** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (NIV 84)

- B. Prophecy needs to be respected even if it is doubtful whether it has been fulfilled or not. Only God knows when the ultimate fulfillment will happen.
- C. It is important that we not lose our hope in Christ's imminent return. This keeps us diligent and grounded!