

The One to be Ruler
By Trey Sullins

Can you predict something 700 years in the future? Just go ask a weatherman how difficult it is to predict things with certainty. In fact, the very nature of humans predicting things is that we are making educated guesses about what might happen in the future. One of the most amazing things about God is His predictions are not guesses but solid fact. If He says something will happen, then it is without a doubt going to happen. Micah 5:2 shows us an excellent example of a certain prediction just like this. About 725 years before Jesus, God reveals there, “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.” This great prophecy of Jesus reveals His nature and relationship to the church.

This prophecy reveals that Jesus was going to come from the town of Bethlehem. Besides the time span from prediction to fulfillment, one other amazing thing about this prediction is that Bethlehem was not really a special city. The only other major significance of there might be is that it is where king David was originally from. For God to have predicted little Bethlehem as the right city means God **knew** His Son was coming from there in the future. Romans 11:33 says, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” We may never know how God knows all these things, but the fact that He does shows us His great power!

This prophecy reveals that Jesus would come with great authority. The passage says, “The One to be Ruler in Israel.” In other words, the one coming would be the one who was in authority. Ephesians 1:22 is a great passage explaining this authority: “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.” In the days past, God reveals His will through the many prophets that He sent. These prophets had the authority of God behind them as they told the world of His message. In our day and time, God has sent His Son to do this revealing to us (Hebrews 1:1-2). Because He is in authority, we must serve Him and Him only. People like to create their own doctrines or their own authority; this is why there are so many different religious bodies in the world. However, God demands that we serve Him according to the way He has authorized. This authorization comes through His word, the Bible.

This prophecy reveals that Jesus would come from an eternal existence. Imagine the time when we get to see heaven. The Bible reveals that we only get to heaven after a life of faithfulness to God. Can you imagine choosing to leave heaven after you finally get there? This is what Jesus did. He was in the glory of heaven with the Father (John 17:5), but then chose to come down to earth to bring the will of God and die to save us all! Because Jesus left this glory to die for us, then that sets a lot of extra weight on our challenge to be faithful. The most well-known passage in the Bible, John 3:16, states, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Jesus’ motivation for leaving heaven was to save us all. What a great God we serve!

The “One to be Ruler” is our ruler today; therefore, we must make sure daily that we are living a faithful life according to His authority and will. He came according to an amazing prophecy, bringing the holy authority, and leaving His eternal presence in heaven to do so. The challenge set

before us as those who live under this ruler is to feed “in the strength of the Lord” and always “abide in Him” (Micah 5:4).