THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE MESSIAH

Micah 5:2 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.

Review

The time of the coming of the Messiah: Before the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, probably between 30&33 AD. Daniel 9:24-27

Who the Messiah would be: A King, God’s Son, One who would rule the entire world and should be worshiped (Psalm 2). His names would be Wonderful Counsellor Mighty God Everlasting Father Prince of Peace and He would reign forever (Isaiah 9:6&7). He would be virgin born and be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

He would be the Messenger (Angel) of the LORD, who in the Old Testament was God Himself (Malachi 3:1) He would be pre-existent: Micah 5:2(NASB) “His goings forth are from long ago, form the days of eternity.”

Where Would He Be Born?

Micah 5:2 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.

Matthew 2:1&2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 24:17 “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.”

Matthew 2:3-5 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:”

Herod was a descendant of Esau, whose ancestors had occupied the southern part of the land given to the tribe of Judah after the start of the Babylonian captivity and after the descendants of Esau had been forced out of their land (Edom) to the east of the Dead Sea. They had been told to convert, die or leave by the Maccabees, and most had “converted.” His father had conspired with the Romans to get himself appointed “The King of the Jews.”

Matthew 2:6 “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a rule who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

John 7:41&42 Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”

Getting Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-3 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

Luke 2:4&5 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:6&7 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8&9 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2:10-12 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:13-15 Suddenly a company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Luke 2:16-18 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:19&20 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

King Herod and Bethlehem

Matthew 2:7&8 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Matthew 2:9&10 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:11&12 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:13-15 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Matthew 2:16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Things to Remember

Jesus came when the Old Testament prophecies said He would come, and He was who the Old Testament prophecies said He would be.

He came to where the prophecy of Micah 5:2 said He would come. The likelihood of the Jewish Messiah being born in Bethlehem after 135 AD is remote, since its population has not been essentially Jewish since that time until the present day.

God used a pagan emperor to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, showing that He is ultimately in control.

Jesus was hated before He was two years old by those who wanted to hold on to political power and is hated by many who want power today, but God’s purposes will come to pass.