

## Micah 5:1-6

*Andrew Crawford*

Leading up to the birth of Christ, God had been silent for 400 years. The people of Israel had been scattered and ruled by foreign nations. The mighty throne of David had crumbled, and the great armies of Judah had fallen. In the midst of a book about judgment and condemnation on Israel, the prophet Micah gives a promise of hope.

It is a promise that from the little town of Bethlehem would come a King and Messiah who would deliver the people of God and rule over the nations. The hope of Israel would come from the most unlikely of places. From the humble town of Bethlehem - from a humble birth in a manger - comes the Messiah who comes to save. He didn't come as a warrior or a political leader, but He came as a shepherd to seek and save those who are lost. The humble savior, Jesus Christ, lived and died to save the lost. And now, He has risen and reigns over all the nations, and His name is exalted above every name. Under Him all nations will bow, and no sword nor will of man can stand against Him.

The fulfillment of God's promises in the birth of Christ employs us to look forward to the return of Christ. We have a God who has proven Himself over and over. Today we live in the age of the church. The promises of God have already been fulfilled in Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Yet, those promises have not yet been consummated with the second coming of Christ. We live in the space between the first and second coming of Christ.

When we look at the world around us, it can feel easy to lose hope. Wars and rumors of wars have dominated the news cycles for much of our lifetime. Plagues and disease spread over the earth. Wick-edness seems to endure. But we have a hope and a promise. God was faithful to fulfill the promise to bring a Messiah, and He is faithful to promise to return. Just as Christ came to bring life to the lost, He is coming back to judge all unrighteousness and crush all evil. The enemies of the Lord will not long endure. The armies of Assyria and the lands of Nimrod have passed away. Those that stand against the people of God hasten ruin to themselves; their judgment is the salvation of the people of God. The Savior, Jesus Christ, will reign forever over all the nations.

**“Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,”**