

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Advent

These questions are for the **November 28, 2021**, sermon, "The Promised Gift, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (Micah 5:2-9) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW BETHLEHEM FITS INTO GOD'S MESSIANIC PLAN, NOTE . . .

1. The promised reign of the Messiah. (2-6)
 - a. 700 years before God's Servant-King is born, we are told WHERE he would be born.
 - i. Bethlehem Ephrathah.
 1. There were more than one cities named Bethlehem, so "Ephrathah" distinguishes "which Bethlehem?"
 2. This town played a role in Ruth's life and of course, David's life.
 - ii. God delights in using small beginnings, and seemingly insignificant places.
 - b. The first coming of the promised King (Messiah) (2-3)
 - i. A ruler "from Bethlehem." (Was Jesus born in Bethlehem?)
 - ii. A ruler "for God." (Jesus came to serve God's purposes)
 - iii. A ruler "in Israel." (Jesus came to the Jews, 'first', ministered mostly in Israel.)
 - iv. A ruler "from of old." (Before Abraham was, Jesus said, "I AM.")
 - c. The second coming of the promised King (Messiah) (4-5)
 - i. The faithful servant will "stand" faithfully and shepherd his flock.
 - ii. While the world will despise his people, we shall dwell securely for his name.
2. The protected remnant of the Messiah. (7-9)
 - a. "Remnant" indicates a smaller portion with all the characteristics of the larger piece.
 - i. The Jewish people are scattered throughout the world, yet some will be faithful.
 - ii. These scattered ones will see God's faithfulness.
 - b. The promised King will deliver his own people safely and "cut off" every enemy.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How does the precision and prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah inform, bolster and embolden your faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Based on #1, above: Jesus is born in a tiny little town in extremely humble circumstances. His mission, even as the promised King, needed no pomp, no prominence, and no voting. Instead, he needed to stay on God's mission and serve God faithfully. What can you learn from Jesus example and attitude? How can God use your "small beginning" and seemingly "small life"?
3. Based on #2, above: While the Jewish people have been mistreated throughout history, God has sustained them, blessed them and is now even beginning to re-gather them in the Promised Land. Our hope is that, far more than material blessings, many Jews will turn and receive and embrace and believe that Jesus Christ is the promised King. Let's pray about this together!
4. Based on #2, above: All who embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord belong to God and are "the people of God." We await the second coming of Jesus Christ when he will deliver his people safely and cut-off every enemy. How does this promise that Jesus will return and set everything aright influence your Christmas/advent celebrations and observances? Is Jesus your peace?