

The Stubborn Promise of Christmas

Pastor Derek Mackie

Sunday, December 4, 2022

THE MINOR
PROPHETS
JONAH · MICAH · NAHUM

Micah 5:1–12 (LSB)

¹ “Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ² “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from everlasting, From the ancient days.” ³ Therefore He will give them *up* until the time When she who is in childbirth has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brothers Will return to the sons of Israel. ⁴ And He will stand and shepherd *His flock* In the strength of Yahweh, In the majesty of the name of Yahweh His God. And they will remain Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. ⁵ And this One will be peace. **When** the Assyrian enters our land, When he treads on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princes of men. ⁶ And they will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will deliver *us* from the Assyrian When he enters our land And when he treads within our borders. ⁷ Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among many peoples Like dew from Yahweh, Like showers on vegetation Which do not hope for man Or wait for the sons of men. ⁸ Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if it passes through, Tramples down and tears, And there is none to deliver. ⁹ Your hand will be raised up against your adversaries, And all your enemies will be cut off. ¹⁰ “And it will be in that day,” declares Yahweh, “That I will cut off your horses from among you And destroy your chariots. ¹¹ “And I will cut off the cities of your land And pull down all your fortifications. ¹² “And I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you will have soothsaying no more. ¹³ “And I will cut off your graven images And your *sacred* pillars from among you So that you will no longer worship The work of your hands. ¹⁴ “And I will uproot your Asherim from among you And eradicate your cities. ¹⁵ “And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath On the nations which have not listened.”

