

**The Incomparable God**  
**4. O Little Town of Bethlehem (Micah 4v6-5v15)**

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**Introduction**

- living through turbulent times?

**“NOW” – this present darkness**

- consequences predicted (v9-10, 11-13, 5v1, 3)
  
- reasons explained (5v10-15)

**“THAT DAY” – God’s future reality**

- a great ingathering (4v6-8)
  
- the birth of a shepherd-king (5v2-5a)

**Conclusion**

**Bible references:** 1 Thess. 5:19, 2 Kings 18-19, 1 Pet. 3:15

**Micah 4v6-5v15 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. <sup>7</sup> I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and for ever. <sup>8</sup> As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem."

<sup>9</sup> Why do you now cry aloud--have you no king? Has your counselor perished, that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor? <sup>10</sup> Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the LORD will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.

<sup>11</sup> But now many nations are gathered against you. They say, "Let her be defiled, let our eyes gloat over Zion!" <sup>12</sup> But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing-floor. <sup>13</sup> "Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces many nations." You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

**5:1** Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. <sup>2</sup> "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." <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses, we will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men. <sup>6</sup> They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he invades our land and marches into our borders.

<sup>7</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind. <sup>8</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no-one can rescue. <sup>9</sup> Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots. <sup>11</sup> I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. <sup>12</sup> I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. <sup>13</sup> I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. <sup>14</sup> I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities. <sup>15</sup> I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."

### Timeline for Micah

c1000 BC	United kingdom under David and Solomon
c920 BC	Kingdom divides into northern kingdom (Israel) and southern kingdom (Judah)
c740-700 BC	Ministry of Micah
722 BC	Assyria destroys northern kingdom of Israel
701 BC	Assyria invades Judah but kingdom is spared
597 BC	Judah falls to Babylon and its people go into exile