

Who Is This New-Born King?  
Micah 5:2-5a  
December 20, 2015

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.*

My brothers and sisters in Christ, hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born king. You just finished singing that, but what does that mean? How would you answer if I were to ask you, "Who is this new-born king?" You might say, "He's Jesus." And I might reply, "So, who's that?" At that point, would you be stuck for an answer? Many Christians would be. That's why we are going to define just who Jesus is and why he is the new-born king.

According to Micah, **Jesus is the one whose origins are from old, from ancient times.** That's important. As sinners we are helpless to correct our situation and restore our relationship with God. That's something only God can do. So, if Jesus is to be the one to set things straight between us and God, it only stands to reason that he must be God.

But how do we know that Jesus is God? In his Gospel account, Luke tell us: *The angel answered [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God"* (Lk 1:35 ESV).

It's just that simple. A son can be nothing else than what his father is. Your father was human and you are human. God is God and, therefore, his Son can be no less than God. Jesus is true God.

**In order to pay the price for sin, God required a blood sacrifice.** Since only people have the capacity to sin, the blood sacrifice must be human. Not only that, it must be a perfect human. If Jesus was to pay the price for our sin, he must be human. Was he? Was he truly human, and was he intended to be the price for our sin?

Picture this, Adam and Eve had just sinned. As part of his pronouncement of judgment, God says to the serpent: *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel* (Ge 3:15 ESV).

So, the Savior that God would send would defeat the enemy. He would also be the offspring of a woman. How do we know that Jesus, the one we have said is the very Son of God, was also of human descent? Paul tells us in this letter to the Galatians: *When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman ...* (Ga 4:4 ESV). So, now

we can show that Jesus is true God and true man.

**It is also important that Jesus be the Messiah, the Savior, that God had promised to send.** Not just anyone could do the work required to restore the broken relationship between God and man. Jeremiah writes: *Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land* (Je 23:5 ESV).

So, we know the Savior was to come from the house of David. That means we must establish Jesus as a descendent of David. In the book of Acts, we hear Paul saying: *[From] this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised* (Ac 13:23 ESV). The 'this man' Paul is referring to is David. Paul clearly labels Jesus as the promised Messiah who was prophesied to come from David's line.

Now we know that Jesus was true God, true man, and the Savior who God had promised from the very first sin of man. However, there are those who think that God's Messiah was to be only the Savior of some. Can we prove that Jesus came to be the Savior of all people?

**Jesus is the Savior of all nations.** This point is especially important to you and me. The covenant, the promise God made to Abraham is between God and Abraham's descendants. Are we part of Abraham's descendants? Does God's promise of salvation extend to those who aren't physical descendants but are spiritual descendants? After all, we're Gentiles not Jews.

Listen to what the Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah write: *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious* (Is 11:10 NIV). The nations! That's us! By saying the nations, plural, God is saying, through Isaiah, that his Savior will be the Savior for all people.

Having proven that Jesus was the promised Messiah of God, can we be sure that Jesus felt the same way? In Jesus' discussion of the Good Shepherd, he says: *I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd* (Jn 10:16 ESV). Jesus acknowledge that his flock would be of varied origin. Jesus testified to the fact that he was the Savior of both Jew and Gentile. Rest assured, my fellow Gentiles, we are saved.

Let's review what we have covered up to now. We know that Jesus is true God, true man, the promised Messiah, and the Savior of both Jews and Gentiles. The next hurdle is to be sure what Jesus' objective was and that Jesus accomplished what he came to do.

**Jesus came to earth to conquer sin and death.** Death is man's ultimate enemy and the potent weapon of death is sin. Jesus would be crowned as victor only if he succeeded. King David writes: *The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make*

*your enemies your footstool*" (Ps 110:1 ESV). The 'my Lord' in this passage is Jesus, and God promises to make his enemies his footstool. That sounds like victory to me.

We are working at this one backwards. David declares Jesus to be victorious. The writer of Hebrews explains the victory that Jesus won: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high* (Heb 1:3 ESV).

After Jesus had provided purification for sins, after Jesus had defeated sin and thereby defeated death, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty of heaven. God the Father is the majesty of heaven and the one who sits at his right hand, the one who sits in the position of power, is Jesus.

Can you feel the power that's building here? It just keeps getting better and better. We are followers, the disciples of the one who is true God and true man, the one who is the promised Messiah of old, the one who is the Savior of all nations, including us, and the one who is the victor over sin and death. Can it get any better than this? You better believe it gets better.

Listen to the prophesy written in the book of Daniel: *To him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed* (Da 7:14 ESV). He, Jesus, was given authority, glory and sovereign power. His dominion is everlasting and his kingdom will never be destroyed.

This Jesus is the same Jesus we follow. This Jesus is the one who was to be the firstborn from the dead and to be the firstborn among many brothers. We are the many brothers. And, just to put the icing on the cake, Gabriel repeats the prophesy from Daniel to Mary: *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end* (Lk 1:32-33 ESV).

I said it gets better and that is the better. As Christians, our Lord is the true God and true man, who was promised from the beginning of time, who paid the price of all sin for all sinners, who emerged as the victor over sin and death, and whose kingdom will have no end. We are God's children, redeemed by his own holy blood, and will live and reign with him forever.

My friends, it doesn't get any better than that. We have it all, and we have Jesus to thank for it. This year, when you say Merry Christmas, say it with vim, say it with vigor, say it with a new gusto, because you are a called, justified, and glorified member of the body of Christ. You are a child of God and a joint heir in his kingdom. These facts should give you a whole new joy in saying Merry Christmas. So, let's try it out – MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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1. True God
  - a. Micah 5:2 Whose origins are from old, from ancient times
  - b. Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
2. True man
  - a. Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
  - b. Galatians 4:4a But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman . . .
3. Messiah promised from old
  - a. Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.
  - b. Acts 13:23 "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.
4. Savior of all nations
  - a. Isaiah 11:10 (NIV) In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.
  - b. John 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
5. Victor over sin
  - a. Ps 110:1 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
  - b. Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
6. Who's kingdom shall have no end
  - a. Daniel 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.
  - b. Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign

over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."