

Micah



*And what does the Lord
require of you?
To act justly and
to love mercy and
to walk humbly
with your God.*

Micah 6:8

“He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

“They Were Told”

Isaiah told that Christ was going to be born and that He was going to be persecuted. A contemporary of Isaiah, Micah, told where He would be born. In this short passage, Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Micah presents the idea of a coming ruler against the backdrop of the invasion of Judah by the Babylonians.

The people were more than ready for a good king. Like Isaiah, Micah didn't say when it would happen. He did say the ruler would rule over Israel and that this ruler would come from the clans of Judah. They were probably thinking it was

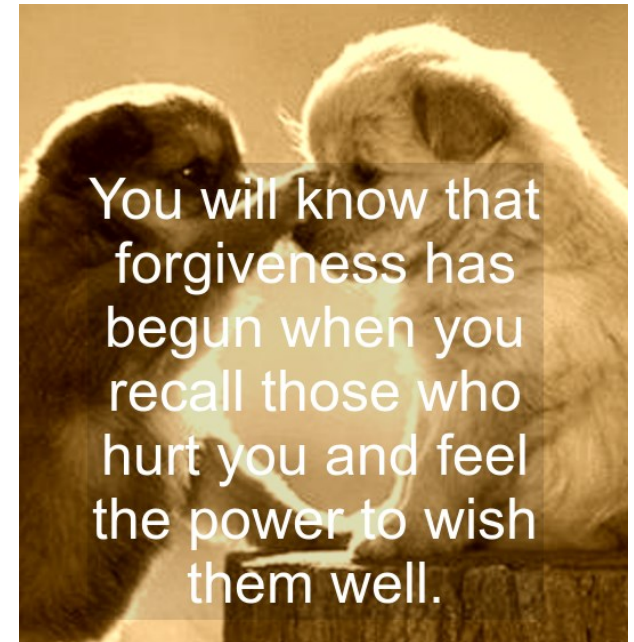
going to happen in the near future and that the ruler would be among them then. And if he was going to rule over them wouldn't he have some power to rule the people .

C. H. Spurgeon, a well-known theologian and minister had three points in a sermon he preached about this verse. This verse is not often referenced before Christmas. There are a number of important attributes in this text. Both Matthew and Luke record the birth of Christ as the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy. This Messiah was to be born, not in Jerusalem as might have been expected, but in Bethlehem. Why not a big city where people would be able to see this spectacular event? Kings are not born every day! A prince or princess may be born, but most of the time it takes several years before we are sure he/she is going to be the ruler. Future kings and queens have been murdered, or a war changes the leadership of the country. Things can happen, but Christ was going to be born a king. What kind of king?

Forgiveness

is not always easy.

At times, it feels more painful
than the wound we suffered,
to forgive the one that
inflicted it. And yet,
there is no peace
without forgiveness.



You will know that forgiveness has begun when you recall those who hurt you and feel the power to wish them well.

What was the ancestry of this new ruler? Where was he coming from? The Scripture says “*Out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*”

One can only assume that the people then started looking for someone who was going to be their next ruler, one who was going to save them from their earthly problems. Who was sending this ruler? Again this verse tells us “*whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*” This is usually interpreted as being from the beginning. Discussion seems to indicate that God, Christ and the Holy Spirit were all there from the beginning. The Trinity has always been a difficult concept to understand. Did God send himself to the earth? Did He send His son to die for us? Does “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever*

Forgive others
as quickly as
you expect
God to forgive
you.

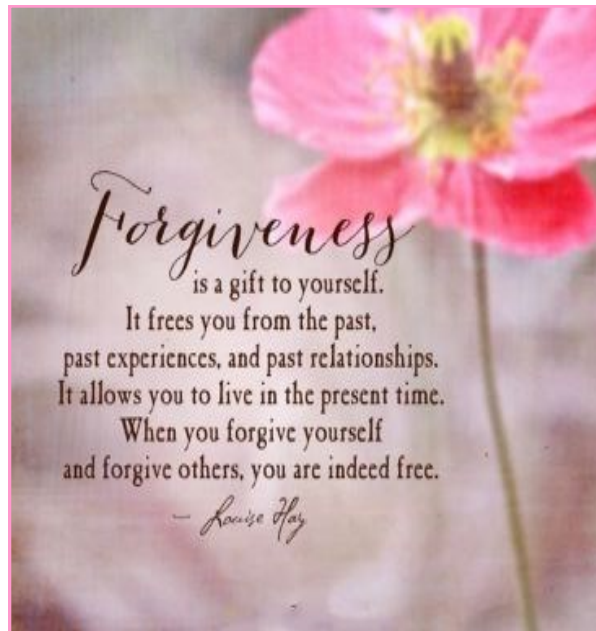
believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” take on new meaning? John 3:16

Why did Jesus come? He came to be “*ruler in Israel.*” We are told Jesus Christ was “*born the king of the Jews.*” I am so glad that He was born to be king of all who accept Him as their personal Savior. I am thankful for His gift of salvation to each one of us. Charles Wesley wrote the lyrics to a song sung at Christmas entitled “*Come, thou long expected Jesus.*” Some of the words are:

*“Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever.”*

We just assume that we are being set free from our sins and we find rest in that. The concept of Christ being born a child and a King forever can make us wonder and put the gift of everlasting life in its proper perspective.

These prophecies caused the people to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, and many devout Jews prayed earnestly for that day to come soon. Luke 2:25 tells of Simeon, a man of faith who was “*looking for the consolation of Israel*” When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple as an infant, Simeon knew this child was the fulfillment of the Messianic promise.



I wonder if the people forgave Micah for his prophecy at the time. If we were told today that something great was going to happen by someone who claimed to be told by God, how would we react. There have been instances where people have predicted the second coming and then it didn't happen and they were scoffed. It did not happen in Micah's lifetime or the lifetimes of the people he was telling. We are blessed to see all those promises fulfilled.

Prayer: Lord and Savior, thank You for coming to forgive our sins. Thank You for accepting us as we are and being with us every day when we have done nothing to deserve Your grace. Help us to seek to do Your will, to help those who do not know You as their personal Savior and King. Amen.

1. Why did God prophesy His coming to people long before it was going to happen?
2. Why did He choose an old man like Simeon to finally know and see Jesus?
3. Why did He choose you or me to know His love?
4. Would you want to have the responsibility of telling people about Christ coming to this earth?
5. Do you have that responsibility now? How much of the world are we responsible for telling the “Good News”?

©rgscripts
info@rgscripts.com

