



## The Assyrian Crisis



## The Oracle

- A. **Threat** from Assyria: City under Siege! (5:1)
- B. A Ruler will arise from Bethlehem: He will be our **Peace** (5:2-5a)
- A. **Threat** from Assyria: Israel Invaded! (5:5b-6)

## The Oracle

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 labour bears a son, 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 Yahweh, in the majesty of the name of Yahweh 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 our peace" (Micah 5:2-5a).

## Bethlehem Ephrathah

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah..." (5:2).

- Ephrathah, a district by Bethlehem (Gen 35:19; Ruth).
- Jesse's hometown (1Sam 17:12) and place of birth and anointing of King David (1Sam 16).
- Anticipates a new beginning out of a famous past.



## A Son

“Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son...” (5:3).

- While this birth may be connected to the historical context (cf. Isaiah 7); it anticipates a future birth and restoration after a time of abandonment.

## The Shepherd

“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of Yahweh” (5:4).

- “Shepherd” was a stock image for rulers in the ANE and Israel, but especially evokes David.
- Embodies the ideal Israelite ruler, entirely dependant on Yahweh.

## He will be our Peace

“And he will be our peace” (5:5).

- Brings peace/shalom (שָׁלוֹם) which is more than the absence of conflict, but is wholeness and human flourishing.

## He will be our Peace

“If we want to reflect on what shalom is, we only need to look at a thing and imagine what it would be like if it were whole. What would it be like if the world was whole? If nations, communities, and homes were whole? That’s peace in the Hebrew Bible.” – Aaron Higashi, *Presence & Absence*, 16.

## He will be our Peace

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- Brings peace/shalom (שָׁלוֹם) which is more than the absence of conflict, but is wholeness and human flourishing.
- Isaiah’s vision of the Messiah as the “Prince of Peace” who will usher in “endless peace” (Isa 9:5, 7).

## Peace Fulfilled

Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** (John 7:42; Matt 2:1, 5-6).

Jesus is the Good **Shepherd** (John 10:1-18; Heb 13:20; 1Pet 5:4).

Jesus is our **Peace** (Eph 2:14).

## Jesus is our Peace

1. **Jesus makes peace:** through his death and resurrection, he has made peace with God on our behalf (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:14; Col 1:20).
2. **Jesus gives peace:** gifts us his peace through the Holy Spirit (John 14:27; Gal 5:22; Phil 4:6-7; Col 3:15).

## Jesus is our Peace

3. **Jesus enables peace:** because of the Spirit’s work in transforming us, our relationships are to be characterized by peace (Rom 12:18; 14:9; Eph 4:3).
4. **Jesus encourages peacemaking:** as followers of Christ we are called to live lives characterized by peacemaking (Matt 5:9; James 3:18).



## Jesus is our Peace

5. **Jesus will establish everlasting peace:**  
when Christ returns in glory, he will establish his peaceable kingdom on the new heavens and new earth (Isa 11:1-10; Rev 21).



## Invitation

Embrace the gift of God's peace found in the person and work of his Son, Jesus the Messiah.

Pray that God would fill us with his peace through his Holy Spirit and make us into a channel of his peace.