



“The Hope of Bethlehem!”

Micah 5:2

December 14, 2014

Three clues that help identify the Messiah:

I. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

A. Why did God select Bethlehem as the birthplace for the Savior of the world? Three reasons:

1. Bethlehem means “House of bread.” (John 6:47-51)
2. Bethlehem has an interesting history that links it to the Messiah. (II Sam 7:12-13)
3. Bethlehem was small. (I Cor 1:27-29)

II. The Messiah would be the ruler of a kingdom.

A. There were two strands of prophecies that describe this coming Messiah. (Isa 52, 53)

1. One strand depicted Him as a suffering servant.
2. The other depicted him as a ruling King.

III. The Messiah would have ancient origins.

A. Genesis 3:15 is the first mention of the gospel in the Bible.

B. Though veiled, we can clearly see that this verse is a reference to the Messiah.

C. The Messiah would come from the offspring or seed of the woman.

D. The seed of the woman can be traced through Scripture all the way to Bethlehem.

1. The Seed of the woman passed from Adam and Eve through Seth; later through Noah; and still later through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. Jacob had twelve sons. One of those sons was Judah. (Gen 49:9-11)
3. The Seed of the woman passed through Judah, and then centuries later through David, and then after even more centuries, through Joseph’s wife, Mary.
4. Why the seed of the woman? Because it points to the virgin birth. (Isa 7:14; Col 1:15-17; Jn 14:8-9; Jn 1:1,14; 14:1-4)