



# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Greetings SBAOC, Grace Community Fellowship is asking for your prayers concerning a more permanent location for worship and Bible studies. For the last few months we have been truly following the model of the New Testament church meeting in homes and anywhere that will have us. We have many rental properties around us that we are praying that the Lord will provide the means for us to acquire. If you all would kindly keep us uplifted in prayer for a location and provision we would greatly appreciate it. In Christ, Pastor Lester Harper, Grace Community Fellowship*

*If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com) or call us at 785-456-8513.*

## A RULER FROM BETHLEHEM: MICAH 5:2

By Jonty Rhodes

According to legend, King Arthur lies on the mystical island of Avalon, waiting to return to rescue Britain at her hour of greatest need. One day, the darkest of days, Britain's "Once and Future King" will appear. Arthur is, of course, mythological. But the prophet Micah knew of a true king whose origins were "from of old" and who would come unexpectedly to rescue his people.

Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah, spoke God's word to

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**2019 Southeast Founders  
Conference  
JANUARY 3-5, 2019**



**MICAH 6:8**  
He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Grace Baptist Church  
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### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

*"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon*

## COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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*Reaching out to the unsaved is not just the responsibility of a pastor or Christian leader. It is the responsibility of every believer to bear witness to the grace of Jesus Christ. So let your example serve to encourage others to do the same. Make clear to your people that not everyone in the church is called or gifted to be an evangelist but that is not what this is about. Show them through your example the significance of being salt and light, and stress the importance of faithfulness rather than success.*

*Daniel Hyde*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Israel at a time of great danger. Due to the sin of both Samaria (the northern kingdom of Israel) and Judah (the southern kingdom), the Israelites would suffer a devastating attack. The mighty Assyrian empire would sweep in and conquer God's people—Samaria would be left as “a heap in the open country” (Micah 1:6) and disaster would even come “to the gate of Jerusalem” (v. 12). Much of the blame rested on the leaders of Israel.

These rulers, far from protecting and providing for their people, had become cannibal-like, killing and devouring. They “eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron” (3:3). No wonder that years later the prophet Jeremiah would summarize Micah's message by quoting one of his most foreboding predictions:

*Micah of Moresheth prophesied . . .*

*“Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.” (Jer. 26:18, quoting Micah 3:12)*

Into this dark, dangerous world Micah spoke not only words of judgment but of hope. In our verse, this hope centers on a humble place and a heavenly ruler.

### A HUMBLE PLACE

“But you . . .” begins Micah's good news. Samaria is rubble, Jerusalem in ruins, but for someone there's hope. Strangely, that “someone” is not a person but a place: Bethlehem Ephrathah. “From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.”

Rather than from mighty Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, with its royal palace, the Rescuer-King would come from humble Bethlehem. Bethlehem was nowhere: a small town just to the southwest of Jerusalem. Yet sometime during 700–730 BC, Micah prophesied that this backwater village would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

And so it came to pass. In Matthew's gospel, we read that “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king” (2:1). In the providence of God, the Roman emperor had issued an order that every citizen was to return to his hometown. And so Mary and Joseph left Nazareth to travel to Bethlehem. The emperor may have been planning a head count, but God was ensuring that His word through Micah would be fulfilled.

Just as in the days of Micah, Israel had a greedy, vicious ruler. Herod the Great would reveal himself to be another “cannibal king” when he commanded the slaughter of all the male children in

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### **Southeast Founders**

**Conference**—January 3-5. Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida. Theme: *Do Justice — Love Kindness — Walk Humbly*. Speakers include Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Tom Ascol, and Jared Longshore. Early registration pricing through Dec. 6. Go to [founders.org/events/](http://founders.org/events/) for information.

**Deep South Regional Founders Conference**—January 24-26. Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. Theme: *The Doctrine of Sanctification*. Main Speaker: Conrad Mbewe. Go to [founders.org/events/](http://founders.org/events/) for information.

**True Church Conference**—February 14-17. Grace Life Church of the Shoals, Muscle Shoals, AL. Theme: *Honoring the Excellency of Jesus Christ*. [truechurchconference.com](http://truechurchconference.com)

**Southern Baptist Founders Conference Midwest**—February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

**Saved By Faith Youth Camp**—June 17-21, 2019. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more info go to [www.sbfyckansas.com](http://www.sbfyckansas.com) or email [trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com](mailto:trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com).

**Encouraged to Endure Conference**—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

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Bethlehem, and he would father Herod Antipas, who later served up the head of John the Baptist on a platter. But amid the darkness, the king had come. In fact, Micah's prophecy is quoted when Herod asks the chief priests and scribes where the Christ was supposed to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they answer, "for so it is written by the prophet" (Matt. 2:5).

### A HEAVENLY RULER

But Micah tells us more than just the birthplace of this ruler. We also learn of his family origins. This ruler will be one "whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." What is Micah telling us about Christ?

Given that the prophecy is addressed to Bethlehem, it's likely in the first place that this is an allusion to that town's most famous son. King David, the founding father of Israel's kingly line, was born in Bethlehem, many years before Micah's prophecy. The future ruler would be from this root: Jesus is a descendant of David, the king from of old. He has ancient, royal blood.

But I think Micah is telling us more. Christ's origins are far older than David, Abraham, or even creation itself. Psalm 74:12 tells us that "God my king is from of old," using the same expression that Micah uses to describe Christ. Micah is hinting that Jesus' origins are not just Davidic but divine. He is God the Son, and as God, He has no beginning. He has always existed.

So, far from the corridors of power, Jesus Christ, descended from David through His adoptive father, Joseph, was born in Bethlehem. God Himself came to rule and rescue. He looked unimpressive. His birthplace was inauspicious. But this is always God's way: through the weak and foolish message of the cross comes rescue from sin—a far greater threat than Micah's Assyrians. And how fitting that Bethlehem means "house of bread." An appropriate birthplace for the One who, in stark contrast to Herod and the cannibal kings of Micah's day, came to feed His people. The Bread of Life, lying in a manger, a feeding trough, in the House of Bread.

Rev. Jonty Rhodes is minister of Christ Church Central Leeds in Leeds, England. He is author of *Covenants Made Simple: Understanding God's Unfolding Promises to His People*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/12/a-ruler-from-bethlehem/>

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## PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

*The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.*

*We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.*



Baptist Association of Churches