

allows them to be subject to foreign domination. There is a long period that intervenes between the end of the reign of Zedekiah and the birth of Christ. But during all this time, the true believers could read Micah 5:1, see that it was true, know that Micah's other pictures had been literally fulfilled, and could figure that this one also would come to pass. When they found one born in Bethlehem, out of David's line, given homage by the angels as the One who was to bring peace on earth and good-will to men, they could know that the prophecy of Micah had actually been fulfilled. They might not ~~not~~ understand that He would not yet establish His kingdom, but that other things would be done first. They could, however, rejoice in the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy and look forward with greater hope to the fulfillment of the wonderful picture that he gave in Micah 4:1-4 of the time when this wonderful king would reign in righteousness and peace over the earth.

Verse 3 continues with a reference to his virgin birth. "Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth." This is followed by a statement as to what will be the immediate effect of His activity. It does not immediately result in the establishment of His kingdom or in His reigning in peace and glory. The next thing that happens is: "then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel."

It would have been very difficult for one reading these words from Micah to know exactly what they meant, but he could rule out many false answers. He could look at many things that happened and see on examination that they were not the solution to this at all. Eventually, however, he would hear Christ say, as recorded in John 10:16, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." Moreover Paul tells us in Romans 11 how branches of a wild olive tree were grafted in among the branches of the olive tree of God's witness. His other brethren, those who came from outside of Israel, returned to the Children of Israel, and formed together the people of God which would present His Word during this present age.