

Rise and threst O daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces many nations. You will devote their ill-gotten gain to the Lord, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

This is a prediction of a great crisis that will be overcome because of strength and power by the people from Jerusalem. This prediction we don't know quite where to place. Some interpreters try to make it a prediction of the time of the Maccabees, but at the time of the Maccabees they had one nation attacking them, and this says "many nations". Most say this can't be a prediction of the time of the Maccabees. We don't know of any situation where this ~~is~~ has occurred so this may be a prediction of that which is yet to happen in these verses here.

But then we go on to another situation. It's too bad in a way we have a chapter division ~~vergo~~ We have these three situations and here's the third: 'Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.' What does that mean? Well we saw about the Babylonian captivity before and the people being taken into exile. Does this refer to the same situation? 'A siege is laid against us' Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for 3 yrs. A terrible siege. Then "they will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod." In 586 B.C. as they broke through, just as they were going to break through King Zedekiah, Israel's ruler, rushed out with a little band to try to escape. He was seized. He was taken before Nebuchadnezzar. There Scripture tells us that his eyes were put out. He was carried captive to Babylon.

Is not that what is predicted here? They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod more than 100 years before it happened. What is the importance of Israel's ruler being smitten on the cheek with a rod? The great importance is that God had promised David that David would always have a son sit upon his throne. He had promised him that the Davidic dynasty would endure forever and here was the last king of the Davidic dynasty--Zedekiah. He was seized. His eyes were put out. He was smitten on the cheek with a rod and carried off to prison in Babylon. Had the Davidic dynasty come to an end? Had God's promise failed that there would always be one to follow David to sit upon his throne.

Well, the next verse gives us an answer: "But you, Bethlehem Ephratha, 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." What a marvelous prediction. Out of ~~the~~ Bethlehem, the place from which David had come, out of Bethlehem again there is to come one who is to be ruler, one whose origin it says "are from of old, from ancient times."

When the wise men came from the East, the NT tells us they asked Herod Where is the one to be born who will be king of the Jews, and Herod asked the scribes and they quoted this verse from Micah and they said, It will be in Bethlehem. Here we find it is not just at the place where Christ would be born, that is predicted, but it is tied right in here with what happens when the Davidic line seems to be brought to an end, when they smite Israel's ruler with a rod upon the cheek, that from Bethlehem there is to come the true son of David, the true leader of God's people, the one who descended from David, but the One who is God's own Son.