

The Shepherd- King of Bethlehem

It's been a long journey through the Old Testament this year as we've made a diligent search for our King. Before we're done, we need to notice some of the last prophecies about our King before he finally arrived. What did they mean? How were they fulfilled? What do they tell us about Jesus? First up, let's read from **Micah 5**:

But you, O _____ Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be _____ in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. And he shall stand and _____ his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. (5:2, 4-5)



A ruler from Bethlehem who would shepherd God's people. Next up, **Zechariah**:

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "_____ the shepherd, and the sheep will be _____..." (13:7)

But why would God allow his own shepherd to be "struck"? How would the shepherd be "struck"? **Zechariah 12:10** contains some remarkable detail:

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on _____, on him whom they have _____, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."

And yet, as we've noted over and over again, even in the darkest times, God always provided a ray of hope. Just listen to some of the last verses in all of the Old Testament:

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the _____ of righteousness shall rise with _____ in its wings." (Mal 4:1-2)

How did Jesus fulfill these prophecies? What does it all mean? Why does it matter? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's open our Bibles back to [Micah 5](#) and think carefully about what we're being shown:
 - What was God promising in [5:2-5](#)?
 - How would this ruler be different from all other rulers Israel had ever had?
 - **"And he shall be their peace."** What does that mean?
 - Where does [Micah 5](#) find its fulfillment? Let's read [Matthew 2:1-6](#) together. What do we need to see and understand?
- Next up, [Zechariah 13:7](#) and [12:10](#):
 - In what way is this **"man"** not like just any other ordinary man?
 - On the surface, [12:10](#) might sound confusing—**"...so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him..."** What's going on here?
 - Where does [Zechariah 13:7](#) find its fulfillment? Let's read [Mark 14:26-31](#) and [14:50](#) together. What do we need to see and understand?
 - And what about [Zechariah 12:10](#)? Let's read [John 19:31-37](#) together. What do we need to see and understand?
- Finally, let's revisit [Malachi 4:1-2](#). In your own words, what is being prophesied? Can you think of any ways Jesus fulfills some of these last words of the Old Testament? What sort of **"healing"** did Jesus come for? Passages like [Matthew 4:12-17](#) and [John 12:35-40](#) might be helpful here...

For NEXT Sunday:

- We'll hear of Jesus' birth in [Luke 1](#) and pay special attention to the angel's words in [1:30-33](#). Why, then, do we read what we do in [John 6:15](#)? **We'll talk about it...**