

# ISAIAH & MICAH identify “Yahweh’s Messenger” as “Messiah”

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Micah 5:1-6

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## I. Intro:

- A. Isaiah & Micah were contemporary prophets in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah (65 years). Micah 4:1-4 quotes Isaiah 2:1-4 verbatim. Isaiah and Micah no doubt knew each other.
- B. Both prophets prophesied concerning the siege of Jerusalem by Sanacharib, king of Assyria which occurred during Hezekiah’s 14<sup>th</sup> year.
- C. The book of Isaiah is divided into 66 chapters, same as books in the Bible
  - 1. The first 39 chapters parallel the 39 books of the OT, and largely deal with judgement.
  - 2. The last 27 chapters parallel the 27 books of the NT, and begin with the prophecy of John the Baptist, and describe the restoration of Israel and the human Messiah.
  - 3. Chapters 36-39 are unlike the rest of the book which is “prophetic.” These 4 chapters give a historical account of king Hezekiah’s 14<sup>th</sup> year (after which God gave him 15 more years).

## II. Isaiah’s historical account of the Assyrian invasion in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of Hezekiah:

- A. Isa. 36 Sanacherib, King of Assyria invades Judah, sends his chief officer to threaten Hezekiah and Jerusalem, and mocks Yahweh.
- B. Isa. 37:1-7 Hezekiah sends Eliakim & Shebna to seek Isaiah’s prayers and counsel. Isaiah sends word not to fear Senacherib, that Yahweh will deliver Jerusalem.
- C. Isa. 37:8-13 Sanacherib’s chief officer has a letter delivered to Hezekiah, again threatening to invade, again mocking Yahweh.
- D. Isa. 37:14-20 Hezekiah took the letter to the Temple, spread it before Yahweh, and prayed.
- E. Isa. 37:21-36 Isaiah sent a message to Hezekiah, saying that God heard his prayer, and quotes God’s words against Senacherib, promising to defend Jerusalem, saying: *“**The zeal of the Lord Sabaoth will do these things.**”* (v. 30)
- F. Isa. 37:36-38 During the night, the “**Messenger of Yahweh**” struck down 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp besieging Jerusalem. Senacherib fled back to Nineveh, where he was assassinated by his sons.
- G. Isa. 38 Hezekiah became sick immediately afterward and nearly died, but God restored his health.

III. Isaiah had prophesied this incredible deliverance from the Assyrian king several years earlier. He indicated that their Deliverer from the Assyrian siege (Messenger of Yahweh) will be the Messiah who will sit on David’s throne.

A. Isaiah 9:1-5 prophesied the slaughter of the Assyrian army by the “Messenger of Yahweh,” “as at the battle of Midian” when the “Messenger of Yahweh” assisted Gideon.

B. Isaiah 9:6 credits the victory to the “Youth” who was “begotten” for us, the Son who was given to us. Isaiah 9:6-7 (LXX) 6 “because a Youth was begotten for us, a Son also was given to us, of Whom the Beginning occurred upon His shoulder. His name [sing.] – “Messenger of Great Counsel.” For I will bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health with him” [to Hezekiah]. 7 His Beginning [is] great, and His peace has no boundary upon the throne of David and his kingdom, to prosper and to uphold it with righteousness and with judgment from this time unto the age appointed. The zeal of the Lord Sabaoth will do these things.”

1. The “begetting” and “giving” of the Youth, Son are past tense in both the Hebrew and the LXX. But vs. 7 has present and future tense verbs.
2. The NAME in the LXX is “Messenger of Great Counsel”; In the Hebrew it is a single name consisting of a statement: “Wonderful Counsellor [to] the mighty God, Eternal Father [of] the Prince of Peace.”
3. “The zeal of the Lord Sabaoth will do these things” occurs only here and in Isa. 37:30 in Yahweh’s reply to Hezekiah’s prayer, accomplished by the “Messenger of Yahweh” killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Here “these things” include all of verses 1-7 including the deliverance from the Assyrian siege.

IV. Micah also prophesied of this deliverance years in advance, and also linked the “Messenger of Yahweh” to the Messiah.

a. Micah 5:1-6

1. Vs. 1 described the siege of Jerusalem by Senacherib’s army
2. Vs. 2 blesses “Bethlehem” because the Messiah will “go forth” from there.
  - a. His previous “exodoi” (out-goings) have occurred from antiquity, from ancient days – the many appearances of the “Messenger of Yahweh.”
  - b. The same is said of “Wisdom.” Prov. 8:35 (LXX) “For my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favour from the Lord.”
3. Vs. 3 Yahweh’s Messenger will “give them up until she who is in labor gives birth” (Rev. 12:1-4), when He is born as a human through the virgin Mary, after which a “remnant” of His “brothers” (the disciples) will return to the sons of Israel.
4. Vs. 4 He will shepherd His “flock” (Jesus is “that Great Shepherd” Jn. 10; 1 Pet. 5:4), and His “little flock” is the disciples (Luke 12:32). He will be great among the Gentiles (Christians).
5. Vs. 5 THIS ONE will deliver Judah when the Assyrian (Senacherib) invades.
  - a. Thereafter “7 shepherds and 8 princes” brought an end to the Assyrian empire (described in Isaiah 10:24-34). This was a series of rebellions by vassal states, the greatest of those who rebelled was Babylon.