

Micah 5:1-3 (LXX)

*An Original Translation from the Rahlfs LXX by Tyler Robbins
Revised October 7, 2017*

1. Translation (Micah 5:1-3 LXX):

You, Bethlehem, city of Ephratha, who are small to be [counted] among the thousands of Judah – from you a man will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel, and his departure [has been determined] from the beginning, from the earliest times.

Because of this, Yahweh will hand them over until she who is in labor will give birth, and then the rest of their brothers will return to the children of Israel. Then, the ruler will assume his post, and see, and shepherd his flock by Yahweh’s power. And they will dwell [safely] with the glory of the name of Yahweh their God, because now He will be exalted, to the very ends of the earth!

2. Thought-flow Diagram:¹

ADDRESSING BETHLEHEM	- You, Bethlehem, city of Ephratha,
ASIDE ABOUT STATUS	○ who are small to be [counted] among the thousands of Judah –
PROPHECY #1 – THE RULER WILL COME	○ from you a man will go forth for me
purpose of ruler’s going forth	▪ to be ruler in Israel,
certainty of prophesy	▪ and his departure [has been determined] from the beginning,
further explanation about certainty	• from the earliest times.
PROPHECY #2 – WHEN THE RULER WILL COME	○ Because of this,
the waiting is the hardest part . . .	▪ Yahweh will hand them over
when the ruler is born	▪ until she who is in labor will give birth,
what happens after the ruler is born	▪ and then the rest of their brothers will return to the children of Israel.
PROPHECY #3 – WHEN THE RULER REIGNS (sequential after previous)	○ Then,
the ruler begins to reign	▪ the ruler will assume his post,
the ruler sees problems	▪ and see,
the ruler rules	▪ and shepherd his flock by Yahweh’s power.

¹ This format is based off Richard Young’s discussion on thought-flow diagrams (*Intermediate Greek* [Nashville, TN: B&H, 1994], 268-271) and the format in the ZECNT commentary series. It blends both versions, and I’m not entirely sure it gets the point across well, but I’m using it for now.

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PROPHECY #4 – THE KINGDOM (sequential after previous)	○ And
the result of the ruler’s reign	▪ they will dwell [safely] with the glory of the name of Yahweh their God,
the reason for the result	• because now He will be exalted,
<i>extent of Yahweh’s glory</i>	○ to the very ends of the earth!

3. Translation Notes:

- **Row #1:** Greek text (Rahlfs LXX);
- **Row #2:** parsing;
- **Row #3:** gloss;
- **Row #4:** brief syntax notes;
- **Row #5:** rough, ugly, but more “literal” translation;
- **Row #6:** smoother, slightly more colloquial translation

αὶ	σύ	Βηθλεεμ	οἶκος	τοῦ	Εφραθα
npf	2 nd ,s,n	vsf	nsm	gsm	gsm
the	you	Bethlehem	city	of	Ephratha
<i>subj; vocative sense</i>		<i>apposition</i>		<i>partitive</i>	
You, Bethlehem, city of Ephratha,					
You, Bethlehem, city of Ephratha,					

ὀλιγοστός	εἶ	τοῦ	εἶναι	ἐν	χιλιάσιν	Ιουδα
nsm	2 nd ,s,p,a,i	gsm	p,a,inf	prep	dpm	gsm
small	You are	the	to be	in, among	thousands	of Judah
<i>predicate of εἶ</i>	<i>vocative sense</i>	<i>articular infinitive - complementary</i>		<i>space</i>	<i>obj,prep</i>	<i>partitive</i>
who are small to be among the thousands of Judah –						
who are small to be [counted] among the thousands of Judah –						

ἐξ	σοῦ	μοι	ἐξελεύσεται
prep	2 nd ,s,g	1 st ,s,d	3 rd ,s,f,m(d),i
from	you	me	he will go out
<i>derivation</i>	<i>obj,prep</i>	<i>benefaction; mod. ἐξελεύσεται</i>	
from you one will go out for me			
from you a man will go forth for me			

μοι. This could be expressing reference, in which case Micah is making it clear that this ruler will go forth from Yahweh. That is, Yahweh sent him. Or, it could be expressing benefaction, in which case the idea is that this ruler is coming for Yahweh’s benefit. At long last, a worthy ruler has come on the scene – the real

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King of Israel! Given the context of spiritual apostasy, among the priests and especially the leadership, I opted for *benefaction* here. Lexham and NETS agreed.

τοῦ	εἶναι	εἰς	ἄρχοντα	ἐν	τῷ	Ἰσραηλ
gsm	p,a,inf	prep	asm	prep	dsm	dsm
of the	to be	in	ruler	in	the	Israel
articular infinitive - purpose			obj.prep	space	obj.prep	
for the purpose of being a ruler in Israel						
to be ruler in Israel,						

καί	αἱ	ἐξοδοί	αὐτοῦ	ἀπ'	ἀρχῆς
conj	npf	npf	gsm	prep	gsf
and	the	goings out, exodus, departures	of him	from	beginning
	subj.		partitive		obj.prep
and his goings out are from the beginning,					
and his departure [has been determined] from the beginning,					

αἱ ἐξοδοί. Unlike the Hebrew, the phrase here in the LXX is clear – it refers to this ruler’s “going forth.” The word gives the sense of *departure* or *exodus*. This is also the way Brenton and the Lexham LXX translate the phrase. The LXX text does not imply origins here. The sense is predestination, or the certainty of God’s promise in this prophesy. He determined it would happen from the very beginning, from the earliest times – and it will happen (and it did)!

ἐκ	ἡμερῶν	αιῶνος
prep	gpf	gsm
from	days	earliest
	obj.prep	
from the earliest days.		
from the earliest times.		

διὰ	τοῦτο
conj	dem.pro; asn
because of	this
reason	refers to all of previous verse
Because of this,	
Because of this,	

δώσει	αὐτούς
3 rd ,s,f,a,i	apm
he will give up ²	them
simple active; refers to Yahweh	direct obj.
he will give them up	
Yahweh will hand them over	

² For this usage, see BDAG, s.v. “1961 δίδωμι,” 15.

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ἕως	καιροῦ	τικτούσης	τέξεται
prep	gsm	ppgsf	3 rd ,s,f,m,i
until	time, season	she is giving birth to, bear	she will give birth to
	<i>obj.prep</i>	<i>substantival with temporal flavor; descriptive</i>	<i>indirect middle</i>
until she who is giving birth will give birth,			
until she who is in labor will give birth,			

καί	οἱ	ἐπίλοιποι	τῶν	ἀδελφῶν	αὐτῶν	ἐπιστρέψουσιν	ἐπὶ	τούς	υἱούς	Ἰσραηλ
conj	npm	npm	gpm	gpm	pronoun:gpm	3 rd ,pl,f,a,i	prep	apm	apm	gsm
and	the	remaining	of the	brothers	their	they will return, turn	to	the	sons, children	Israel
<i>temporal</i>	<i>subj</i>		<i>partitive</i>		<i>relationship</i>	<i>mod. οἱ ἐπίλοιποι</i>	<i>space</i>	<i>obj.prep</i>		
then the remainder of their brothers will return to the sons of Israel										
and then the rest of their brothers will return to the children of Israel.										

καί
conj
and
time
Then,
Then,

στήσεται
3 rd ,s,f,m(d),i
he will take his place ³
<i>deponent middle; predictive</i>
he will take his position
the ruler will assume his post,

καί	ὄψεται
conj	3 rd ,s,f,m(d),i
and	he will see
	<i>deponent middle; predictive</i>
and he will perceive,	
and see,	

καί	ποιμανεῖ	τὸ	ποίμνιον	αὐτοῦ	ἐν	ἰσχύι	κυρίου
conj	3 rd ,s,f,a,i	asn	asn	gsm	prep	dsf	gsm
and	he will lead, shepherd	the	flock	his	in	strength, power, might	of Lord
	<i>predictive</i>	<i>direct obj.</i>		<i>possession</i>	<i>means</i>	<i>obj.prep</i>	
and he will shepherd his flock by means of the might of Yahweh.							
and shepherd his flock by Yahweh's power.							

καί
conj
and

³ For this usage, see BDAG, s.v. “3754 ἴστημι,” B.1.

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<i>temporal</i>
Then
And

ἐν	τῇ	δόξῃ	τοῦ	ὀνόματος	κυρίου	τοῦ	θεοῦ
prep	dsf	dsf	gsn	gsn	gsm	gsm	gsm
in	the	glory	the	name	Lord	of the	God
<i>association</i>	<i>obj.prep</i>		<i>subj.gen</i>		<i>partitive</i>	<i>relationship</i>	
they will exist with the glory of the name of Yahweh their God,							
they will dwell [safely] with the glory of the name of Yahweh their God,							

ἐν τῇ δόξῃ . . . ὑπάρξουσιν. In the English translations of the Hebrew Bible, this phrase is a further description of the ruler’s reign. However, in the LXX, it’s a description of how the Israelities will dwell in the land. In the LXX, if you understand the previous phrase to refer to the ruler’s reign, then the verb ὑπάρξουσιν has no object – it literally reads, “They will exist, because now he will be exalted . . .” This makes no sense. You’d be forced to add an object (e.g. safely, securely, etc.) to render it. The best thing to do is to make this a description of the Israelites in the land. This is what the Lexham, Brenton and NETS did.

αὐτῶν	ὑπάρξουσιν	διότι	νῦν	μεγαλυνθήσεται
pronoun:gpm	3 rd ,pl,f,a,i	conj	adv	3 rd ,s,f,pass,i
their	they will be	because, therefore	now	he will be exalted, glorified, magnified
<i>relationship</i>	<i>predictive</i>		<i>time</i>	<i>simple passive (by inhabitants of earth); predictive</i>
because now He will be exalted,				
because now He will be exalted,				

ἕως	ἄκρων	τῆς	γῆς
prep	gpn	gsf	gsf
until	ends, outermost	of the	earth
<i>relationship</i>			
<i>predictive</i>			
as far as the ends of the earth!			
to the very ends of the earth!			