

“Selected Studies in the Gospels”  
The “Ruler” born in Bethlehem

**Matthew 2:6**

¶¶ MT/Micah 5:1(2)

And thou Beth-lehem, **Eph-rathah**, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall come forth unto me *that* is to be **ruler** in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

1. Targum Jonathan/Micah 5:1

And you, O Bethlehem **Ephrathah**, you who were too small to be numbered among the thousands of the house of Judah, from you shall come forth before Me the **Messiah**, to exercise dominion over Israel, he whose name was mentioned from before, from the days of creation.

2. B. Pesachim 54a

a. Psalm 72:15-17—“*Of Solomon*”

3. Pesikta Rabbati 33:6

a. Hebrews 4:3

b. 1Peter 1:20

c. Revelation 13:8

4. Revelation 2:26-27

¶ LXX/Psalm 2:9

“**Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron; as the potter's vessel thou shalt break them to shivers.**”

¶¶ MT/Psalm 2:9

“**Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.**”

a. Sukkah 52a

b. Genesis Rabba 44:8

c. Genesis Rabba 97 (NV)

5. Revelation 12:1-5

¶¶ MT/Genesis 37:9-10

a. The “male-child,” is the Messiah (see notes on Luke 2:6-11).

b. The “woman” is the nation of Israel—out of whom the Messiah is birthed.

1) Isa. 9:6; Mic. 5:2; Isa. 26:17-18; Isa. 66:7-9

c. In the Tenach, the image of a woman is frequently associated with Israel, Zion, or Jerusalem.

1) Isa. 54:1-6; Jer. 3:20; Ezek. 16:8-14; Hos. 2:19-20)

**Luke 2:6-11**

¶¶ MT/Genesis 35:19-21

<sup>19</sup>And Rachel ... was buried in the way to **Eph-rath**, which is **Beth-lehem** ... <sup>21</sup>And Israel ... spread his tent beyond the **tower of Eder**.

¶¶ MT/Isaiah 9:5-6 (6-7)

<sup>5</sup>For unto us **a child is born** ... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor of the Mighty God, of the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace ...

¶¶ MT/Isaiah 9:5-6 (6-7)

<sup>5</sup>For to us **a child has been born** ... The wonderful counselor, the Mighty God, the Eternal Father has called his name “Prince of Peace.”

1. Targum Pseudo-Jonathan/Genesis 35:21

And Jacob moved on, and pitched his tent onward to the tower of Eder, the place whence the **King Messiah** is destined to reveal himself at the end of days.

2. Targum Jonathan/Isaiah 9:5-6

<sup>5</sup>The prophet announced to the house of David that: “A boy has been born unto us, a son has been given unto us, who has taken the Torah upon himself to guard it; and his name has been called by the One who gives wonderful counsel, the Mighty God, He who lives forever: ‘**Messiah**,’ in whose day peace shall abound for us.

“He shall make great the dignity of those who labor in the Torah and of those who maintain peace, without end; on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to build it in justice and in righteousness, from this time forth and forever. This shall be accomplished by the **Memra** of the Lord of Hosts.”

a. The *Memra*, Logos, or ‘Word.’

¶¶ MT/Numbers 23:21

Targum Pseudo-Jonathan/Numbers 23:21

“... **The Memra of the Lord their God** is their help, and the trumpet-call of the **King Messiah** echoes in their midst.”

¶¶ MT/Deuteronomy 30:5

Targum Pseudo-Jonathan/Deuteronomy 30:5

And **the Memra of the Lord your God** shall bring you into the land which your fathers possessed and you shall possess it ...

¶¶ MT/Joshua 5:13-6:2