

**Message:** The Pursuit of Peace

**Scripture:** Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

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*Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
    who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd 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.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

"We long for peace, desperately. Peace from noise, chatter, pressure, responsibilities. We also want peace from the pain and thumping inside our own heads - the conflicts and strain we inflict on ourselves every minute to be better, stronger, smarter (prettier, thinner, better parents, \_\_\_\_\_ [you fill in the blank]).

"Peace, I've found, doesn't come from being better at anything, or even figuring anything out. Attaining peace is a practice that we need to cultivate and commit to. Peace today will never just fall in our laps - it's too chaotic a world. We have to carve out space within ourselves and in our lives to bring forward the experience of peace, then do the work to expand peace as a feeling and experience that we'll commit to daily, regardless of what's around us. You don't have to know your purpose to be at peace - you just have to commit to being at peace, and building daily practices that will support you in that commitment." – excerpt from a 2016 article from Forbes magazine

Link to video shown - <https://www.perimeter.org/shalomvideo>

"The core idea is that life is complex, full of moving parts and relationships and situations, and when any of these is out of alignment or missing, your shalom breaks down, life is no longer whole, it needs to be restored." - The Bible Project