



# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## MICAH THE MORASTHITE

Where did the people come from that brought God's word in Bible days? Did they come from Jerusalem? Did they come from Samaria? How about Dan or Beersheba? In truth, they come from those places and many more. Some came from small villages on the edge of Philistia (Micah 1:1, 14)! Some came from obscure places like Tishbe (I Kings 17:1), while still others come from far-flung villages like Nazareth (Matt. 2:23)! It may surprise you where the men come from who preach the gospel of Christ today! Some come from large cities or even foreign countries, while still others were born and raised in small communities you might never see or visit in your life. A dear friend of mine told me he grew up in a town that does not exist! I have been to the area where he grew up and can attest that his words were true. The town does not exist! Why say these things? I write as a

reminder that the power of the gospel does not rest with men. It does not rest in the towns where men live, nor does it rest in the things that provide "comfort" or "familiarity" to us. Instead, the gospel has its own power. The gospel saves us (Rom. 1:16-17) and does so by its own intrinsic power. When someone is saved from his sin through faith, repentance, and baptism (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16), it is the result of that person hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel (Rom. 10:13-16; Heb. 5:9, 11:6). It is not because of the eloquence of a man's voice (I Cor. 2:1-5), nor is it because the one teaching came from the "right area," the "well-known" part of the world, he attended the "right college," or was raised in the "right" family according to men's standards. God *"hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are*

*mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence*" (I Cor. 1:27-29). When we read in the Bible about Morasheth, Tishbe, Dan, Gilead, Beersheba, Jerusalem, Samaria, and even Nazareth, let us not be distracted by those places (or even their pronunciation in some cases!). Instead, let us focus on the fact that a messenger of God came from there, and it is the message of God to which we need to give heed (Mic. 1:1)! Had folks done this in Micah's day, perhaps even more would have been saved. If people focused on the message from the Man from Nazareth instead of worrying about His pedigree (Jn. 1:46; 7:41-42; Lk. 4:22), perhaps even more could have been saved! Today it is no different. We need to listen to the message rather than focus on the messenger's outward appearance (Rom. 1:16; II Tim. 4:2)! Is his message from God's word (I Pet. 4:11)? Then accept and obey it, not because a certain man said it but because the message is from God! If it is not from God, reject the message and rebuke the messenger (Eph. 5:11; II Jn. 9-11)! Not because the man was from the "wrong place," but because the message is false (II Pet. 2:1-3)! It is fun to know people's origins or "backstories," isn't it? Likewise, it

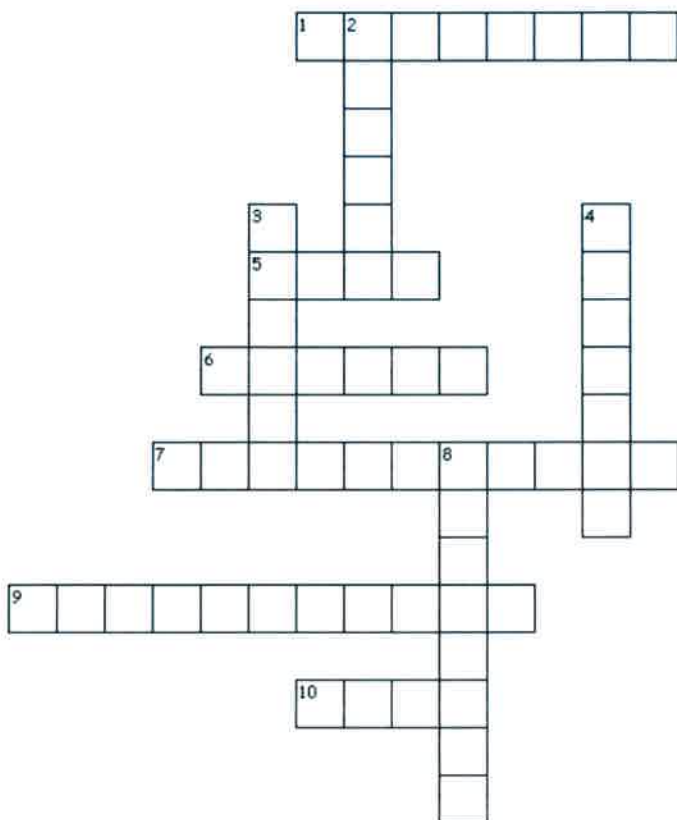
is exciting to think of a person's life in a remote or "exotic" location. However, let us not become so distracted by things like these that we do not focus on what is important. Micah the Morasthite spoke a message from the Lord, and people needed to listen (then and today, Rom. 15:4)! Likewise, Jesus of Nazareth has a message for us (Heb. 1:2), and we need to listen so that we will save ourselves and save those we teach as we strive toward Heaven (I Tim. 4:16)! – Jarrod Jacobs **"No Greater Joy"** John told Gaius, *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"* (III Jn. 4). This statement, though short, teaches us several things. Let us break this verse down, see what John was saying, and make some applications to our lives. **"I Have No Greater Joy"** Nothing gave John greater joy than to know that Gaius, Demetrius (v. 12), and other Christians (i.e., *"friends,"* v. 14) were holding fast to the Lord. He had his joy set on things eternal and not temporal (II Cor. 4:18). In other words, John's joy didn't rest in men's opinion of him or some physical pursuit. John's joy was in knowing that faithful Christians were doing their duty for the Lord! (See: II John 4) Friend, what gives you joy? Is it vacations? Physical pursuits? Work? Children? Cars? Hobbies? These things might bring momentary happiness, but what

brings joy? Is our true joy found in spiritual things? If we truly love the brethren as we ought (I Pet. 2:17), we will be able to speak as John concerning the well-doing of brethren all over this country and world! **“Than To Hear”** Though he wasn’t there in body, John was concerned for the brethren. He wanted *“to hear”* about Gaius and others and learn about their welfare. I know brethren who look down on such concern for others, but John (and the other apostles) showed us the proper example (I Cor. 4:16, 11:1; Phil. 3:17; Eph. 5:1-2). Please understand, John wasn’t interested in gossip, etc., but genuinely concerned for their souls. This needs to be our attitude as well (Prov. 25:25). Other apostles showed concern for the brethren as well. We see Paul’s care for brethren through all of his epistles (II Cor. 11:28; Rom. 16:1-15; I Cor. 1:11; Phil. 4:21; Col. 4:15, 17). The same goes for Peter (I Pet. 1:1, 2:17; II Pet. 1:1). How concerned are we for our brethren? Do we show it through prayers? Through financial support or other means? Are we so caught up in ourselves that we don’t have time to “hear” about the welfare of other Christians? **“My Children”** This does not have reference to his physical lineage but to those he had been instrumental in bringing to the Lord. The apostle Paul used the

same language for those he taught (I Cor. 4:15, 17; I Tim. 1:1-2; II Tim. 1:1-2; Titus 1:4). I think it is interesting to note that we are never told about the apostles’ physical children. (For example, we know the apostle Peter had children, I Pet. 5:1!) I wonder if God did this so we would keep our eyes on the apostles who pointed us to Christ, rather than on their descendants that we might treat as “royalty,” or give them some special position in the church that God never intended? Brethren, what is our attitude toward fellow Christians? Do we strive for closeness? Do we treat one another as brethren? Let’s ask this another way: How many can we consider “children” in the sense the John and Paul used the word (II Tim. 2:2)? **“Walk In Truth”** The word “walk” describes one’s manner of life or behavior. This was seen as Gaius showed hospitality toward others and showed the right example to fellow Christians not traveling (III Jn. 5-8). In other words, Gaius was following God faithfully despite the difficulties that surrounded him. He didn’t merely give lip service to the truth but was walking in it! John said those, like Gaius, who were walking in the truth, brought him great joy. Why did he have joy? It is because he knew that what they were doing pleased the Father (II Jn 4; III Jn. 4). – Jarrod Jacobs

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## ACROSS

1. In Antioch, it was told how God opened a door of faith to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 14:27)
5. When you \_\_\_\_\_, go in your inner room and close the door. (Mt. 6:6)
6. Two \_\_\_\_\_ pulled Lot back into his house and shut the door. (Gen. 19:10,15)
7. Isaiah sung, "Close the doors behind you until \_\_\_\_\_ passes by." (Is. 26:20)
9. Whoever entered a \_\_\_\_\_ house became unclean until evening. (Lev. 14:46)
10. Once inside the ark, God closed the \_\_\_\_\_ behind them. (Gen. 7:16;6:16)

## DOWN

2. \_\_\_\_\_ told a widow to shut the door behind her while pouring oil. (2 Kgs. 4:4)
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a door no one could shut in Philadelphia. (Rev. 3:8;7)
4. God knew \_\_\_\_\_ would say the wilderness had shut Israel in. (Ex. 14:3)
8. The doors were shut where Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to the disciples. (Jn. 20:19)