

Micah 5.2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

The impression left by the NASB is that Jesus' "goings forth" are from "eternity," which makes it sound like he had always existed (i.e. he is God). Although the NASB gives this impression most other translations do not. For example, the NIV states, "...out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Thus, Jesus' origins are from ancient times (not from eternity necessarily). Jesus was descended from David the great King of Israel; he was descended from Judah the royal ancestor who was promised the scepter (Genesis 49.10); he descended from Eve who was promised to have a descendant who would crush the serpents head (Genesis 3.15). Thus, Jesus' origins go back to at least the fall. In fact his origin may even go back before that to the very beginning since 1 Peter 1.20 says that Christ was "foreknown before the foundation of the world." Of course, if Christ is *foreknown*, that means he wasn't actually there, because then he would be *known* before the foundation of the world.