

MICAH: HOPE AMID DOOM

Lesson #4 — Micah 4:1-13 Victory from Defeat

Review

Recount the variety of ways that Israel's leaders had failed to live up to God's expectations.

Introduction

Our world is confusing and chaotic. We see signs of corruption, in-fighting, and instability all around us. Amid all this uncertainty, God's church can be a refuge for those who have become weary in our world.

Identify key characteristics of what a church should be.

Determine how those essential ingredients can be refreshing for people in our society.

God Gets His Due

Micah 4:1

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

When are these last days?

Acts 2:17

Matthew 24:6-14

Luke 21:25-31

Micah 4:2-5

*Many nations will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
3 He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong
nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into
plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against
nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
4 Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.
5 All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord
our God for ever and ever.*

From this verse show that the elevation of the mountain in verse 1 isn't geographical, political or national.

What kind of peace must this be?
Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:51-53

What will result when God arbitrates between peoples and nations?

Compare the security God provides to the best security forces in our nation.

To “walk in the name of a god” is to live according to religious beliefs. Why can God's people do this confidently?

God's instruction will touch every aspect of culture: Education leads humanity into a proper worship of God and love for one another; music and art inspired by his order and beauty, not by depraved humanity's confusion and cacophony; politics motivated by a love to serve, not by a love of power; economics directed by justice, not greed.

How can God's people show small slices of heavenly peace right now?

Divine Rehab

Micah 4:6-8

*"In that day," declares the Lord,
"I will gather the lame;
I will assemble the exiles
and those I have brought to grief.
7 I will make the lame my remnant,
those driven away a strong nation.
The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion
from that day and forever.
8 As for you, watchtower of the flock,
stronghold of Daughter Zion,
the former dominion will be restored to you;
kingship will come to Daughter
Jerusalem."*

Why did God's people become lame, exiled, and filled with grief in the first place?

Instead of despairing or fearing God has abandoned us, how can God's people learn from difficult circumstances?

If God himself is your watchtower, what comfort does that give you? (Isaiah 41:10)

Even if God allows tragedy or defeat into the lives of his people, what ultimate comfort do we have?

Come up with a list of the most powerful Bible verses that reinforce this truth for you.

Exile and Release

Micah 4:9

*Why do you now cry aloud—
have you no king?
Has your ruler perished,
that pain seizes you like that of a woman in
labor?*

What would have to happen to God's people before they experience the glory described in Micah 4:6-8?

Micah 4:10-13

*10 Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion,
like a woman in labor,
for now you must leave the city
to camp in the open field.
You will go to Babylon;
there you will be rescued.
There the Lord will redeem you
out of the hand of your enemies.*

*11 But now many nations
are gathered against you.
They say, "Let her be defiled,
let our eyes gloat over Zion!"*

*12 But they do not know
the thoughts of the Lord;
they do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them like sheaves to
the threshing floor.*

*13 "Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion,
for I will give you horns of iron;
I will give you hooves of bronze,
and you will break to pieces many nations."
You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the
Lord,
their wealth to the Lord of all the earth*

Compare Israel's pain to the pain of childbirth.

How did foreign nations misinterpret Israel's collapse?

How do those same nations show their ignorance of the LORD?

What will God enable his people to do to those many nations?

God's people will be the Church Triumphant when Jesus returns. Right now we are the Church Militant. If we remember the difference, how will it help us carry out our roles in God's church today? (1 Peter 3:13-17)

Conclusion

Summarize the ways God's ultimate justice gives God's people peace and security in times of turmoil.

Explain the personal role you can play in God's church today since you have the guarantee of the ultimate peace only God can provide.