

MICAH: HOPE AMID DOOM

Lesson #5 — Micah 5:1-15 God's People Win

Review

Recall the progression of events that leads to the restoration described in Micah 4.

Introduction

Identify the weapons God has given to the Church Militant to carry out our mission.

Summarize the basis for our confidence to carry out God's mission for us.

Deliverance from Bethlehem

Micah 5:1-2

*Marshal your troops now, city of troops,
for a siege is laid against us.*

*They will strike Israel's ruler
on the cheek with a rod.*

*2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of
Judah,*

*out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."*

The historical context for the opening of this chapter seems to be the impending siege of Jerusalem by Sennacherib in 701 B.C. or the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

What makes Bethlehem an unlikely candidate for the source of Israel's rescue?

Micah 5:3-5

3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness

will reach to the ends of the earth.

5 And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Who is the one who is in labor?
(cf Micah 4:9-10; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 11:1; 2 Samuel 7:12,13; Psalm 89)

Where do believers find our security?

Describe the results in your life when Jesus is your peace...

Analyze the absurdity of placing hopes in a tiny baby born in Bethlehem from a non-Christian perspective.

Propose reasons why this is exactly the sort of Savior we need from the perspective of the Theology of the Cross.

The Little Guy Dominates

Micah 5:5b-6

We will raise against them seven shepherds,

even eight commanders,

6 who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,

the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.

He will deliver us from the Assyrians when they invade our land and march across our borders.

Who defends Israel against her enemies?

Assyria represents God’s enemies in Micah’s era. How will God bring about ultimate rescue? Intermediate rescue?

Micah 5:7-9

*The remnant of Jacob will be
in the midst of many peoples
like dew from the Lord,
like showers on the grass,
which do not wait for anyone
or depend on man.*

*8 The remnant of Jacob will be among
the nations,
in the midst of many peoples,
like a lion among the beasts of the
forest,
like a young lion among flocks of sheep,
which mauls and mangles as it goes,
and no one can rescue.*

*9 Your hand will be lifted up in triumph
over your enemies,
and all your foes will be destroyed.*

What has God given his “remnant” that allows them to bring refreshment and growth to those around us?

God intends his gifts to be a blessing for all people. How does God’s truth bring about two polar opposite reactions? (2 Corinthians 2:14-17; Mark 16:16)

Break down the ways God brings about victory over his enemies.

God has the means to turn victims into victors by his power. Propose ways we can work to make the people around fellow victors instead of causing them to be victims of God’s power.

God Protects His Purified Remnant**Micah 5:10-11**

*“In that day,” declares the Lord,
“I will destroy your horses from among
you
and demolish your chariots.*

*11 I will destroy the cities of your land
and tear down all your strongholds.*

Recall what kind of activity is usually followed by the expression “in that day.”

Explain how military might and fortified cities could become idols for God’s people.

Micah 5:12-15

*I will destroy your witchcraft
and you will no longer cast spells.
13 I will destroy your idols
and your sacred stones from among
you;
you will no longer bow down
to the work of your hands.
14 I will uproot from among you your
Asherah poles
when I demolish your cities.
15 I will take vengeance in anger and
wrath
on the nations that have not obeyed
me.”*

Express the dangerous nature of witchcraft/sorcery/divination.

Baal and Aherah worship were common among the Israelites and Canaanites. Determine key differences that set them apart from worship of the LORD.

Recall what it means that God is holy and just. Then prove that it is ok for God to get angry and take vengeance.

What do people turn to for strength today in place of Israel’s faulty sources of security?

Military power and fortified cities:

Divination/sorcery/witchcraft:

Idols of wood and stone:

Conclusion

Use your Bible history to recall times when God faced off against overwhelming odds. Clarify the apparently weak tools he has given his church today to fight off our enemies.

Assess the reasons why God’s people today don’t have to worry about witnessing the immediate results of God’s battles.