

# PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



*Gray & Gold by Jack Rogers Cox;  
3' by 5'; Oil on canvas; 1942; The Cleveland Museum of Art.*

## **A study of the book of Micah**

### ***The Incomparable God: A Story of Forgiveness & Fidelity***

Purpose of Micah

“To call Judah to repentance and hope during the Assyrian crisis and to prepare Judah for the Babylonian exile by announcing God’s judgements against sin and his promise of restoration.”

*-Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*

September 26, 2021

# “BLESSED FUTURE AND HOPEFUL PERSEVERANCE”

## Micah 4:1-5 ESV

**1** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, **2** and many nations shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. **3** He shall judge between many peoples and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; **4** but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. **5** For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

## Historical Context

“The second half of the eighth century witnessed the most affluent period in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah since the break-up of the single nation after the death of Solomon...both capitals – Samaria in the north, Jerusalem in the south – had begun to enjoy immense prosperity. In the face of this wealth and godlessness which walked with it, prophets of boldness and incisiveness spoke ‘the word of the Lord’ to both parts of the divided nation: Amos and Hosea in the north, Isaiah and Micah in the south...Micah deals with the Judean version of the development of a commercial and ‘secular’ culture.” (Prior, Micah, 104.)

“In chapters 4-5 seven oracles of hope revolve around the Messiah, who will rule over the remnant. In Micah’s time Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army which Israel’s king could not resist. Nevertheless, the remnant, holed up in Jerusalem, must not lose hope, for little Bethlehem, which at the beginning of the monarchy gave Israel its first true king, would once again give Israel a ruler. Until the remnant gives him birth, Israel will be abandoned without a king; but when he comes, the rest of his brothers will be converted and join the remnant. Then the Messiah will shepherd his flock and they will live securely.” (NITDOTTE, 939)

# Big Idea

Because Jesus has defeated sin and death, then He has secured a future for us and that future gives us hope to persevere by faith in Him.

## Outline

### 1. Micah's Prophecy of Restoration

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### 2. The Fulfillment of Micah's Prophecy

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### 3. Gospel Implications:

a. Through the Spirit, we are to recommit ourselves to following Christ.

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b. This broken world is not our Home and therefore we will not find ultimate peace and joy in the things of this world.

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c. We are left in this world to be salt and light as we point people to the hope found only in Jesus.

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d. We need to encourage each other with God's blessed future hope in order to persevere.

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# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. In John 16:33 Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart I have overcome the world". Jesus gives us a realistic picture of life in a broken world yet He also reminds us of His victory over this sinful world. What are you facing in your life that you need to be reminded of the reality of our sinful world and the reality of Christ's victory? How does the blessed future that is promised in Christ give you strength to persevere in your faith journey?

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2. What part of Micah's prophecy of a future restoration in Micah 4:1-4 stands out to you? Why? Read Isaiah 2:2-4 and see the similarity to Micah's prophecy. These prophets were contemporaries. Why might God have given these two prophets such similar messages at this time?

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3. Pastor Ken mentioned that Micah's prophecy was partially fulfilled with the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus (Mark 1:15, Luke 10:24, Luke 24:44, 1 Peter 1:10-11). He also mentioned that this prophecy will be completely fulfilled when Jesus brings in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21-22). Which of these provides more comfort and strength to persevere for you? Why?

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## 4. Gospel Implications #1

1 Thessalonians 5:24 says, "He who calls you is faithful. He will surely do it." As we think about consecrating ourselves to the Lord, it is important to focus on what He has done for us and what He promises to do for us. What brings true change in our lives are not our promises to God, but when we trust in God's promises to us. What promises of God would be most helpful to you in the current situations you face? Also, read Galatians 3: 3-5 and be reminded of the role of the Spirit in how we live for the Lord. Ask the Spirit to bring the promises of God to mind as you go through this week.

# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

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## 5. Gospel Implications #2

What parts of this world tempt you as places you might look for ultimate peace and joy? Your job? Your spouse? Your children? Your health? Your finances?

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## 6. Gospel Implications #3

What gifts or talents or passions has God given you that you can use to point people to Jesus this week? Who has God put in your life who needs to hear about the amazing grace of Jesus?

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## 7. Gospel Implications #4

Which Christian friend can you encourage this week to persevere with the hope of Jesus? What might that look like for this week?

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**Scripture Memory:** "Micah expressed confidence that God would plead his cause and execute judgment for him (Mic. 7:9), he could not have seen how radically and truly God would do this—by sending his own Son to have judgment executed upon him." Gospel Transformation Study Bible

Through memorizing scripture be reminded moment by moment of God's forgiveness and of the hope that he will deliver!

Micah 7:9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication. (ESV)

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Families and Young Children

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken ([kenc@fpcrome.org](mailto:kenc@fpcrome.org))

1. Micah 4:1-4 describes a blessed future for God's people. Ask them to describe what is written in these verses. What stands out to them about this description? What parts are their favorite? What parts do they not understand?
2. This blessed future was meant to encourage the Israelites going through God's judgment to persevere.
  - a. Ask your children about a future event for which they are excited such as an upcoming vacation or Christmas or maybe a birthday party.
  - b. Talk with them about how the anticipation for that future event helps them get through the present issues.
3. Ask your children what the word "hope" means. Ask them to give examples of things for which they hope.
  - a. Typically we use the word, "hope", for things we wish would come true. Biblical "hope" is being certain that God will bring to pass what He has promised. See Hebrews 11:1 for a good description of Biblical faith and "hope".
  - b. Talk with them about the difference between those two ways of understanding "hope".
4. Micah 4:5 gives a description of a commitment for God's people to follow Him and His ways based on this promise for a blessed future.
  - a. Talk with your children about times when you have made a promise to do something such as a New Year's resolution. Sometimes we follow through with those and other times we don't.
  - b. In the Bible, faith is described as living your life based on what God has done and what He has promised to do.
  - c. Ask your children if they can name some things that God has done for us such as creating all things, for sending Jesus to take our punishment, and for defeating sin and death.
  - d. Ask your children if they can name some promises that God has made for us (Matthew 28:20, Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:32, Romans 10:9).
  - e. Pray as a family for God to remind us of the wonderful things God has done and for what He has promised to do. Also give thanks for these things in prayer.

Scriptures for further study: Isaiah 2:2-4, Joshua 24:15,  
Revelation 21:1-6, Romans 15:13

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Students

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Student Ministry Director Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. Micah 4:1-5 describes a future hope for all of God's people. Is it hard for you to have hope in the season of life that you're in right now? Do you ever sit and think that God will one day make all things right? (See Rev. 21:1-5)
2. Micah 4:1-2 talks about going up "the mountain of the LORD". Going up a mountain has never been easy, so when you think of making this climb up to "the mountain of the LORD", what things scare you? What things make it difficult for you to make this climb, or to follow after God?
3. Micah 4:2 says that if we do make the climb up this mountain, then He will "teach us His ways, that we may walk in His paths". Even though we know the climb up this mountain is difficult, we know that God is right there with us. Is this encouraging for you? Does this make it easier to potentially make this climb?
4. Micah 4:3 talks about a time when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore". Is this something that's hard for you to believe? When you look around at what is going on in the world, is it hard for you to believe that God is still in control, and that one day there will be peace?
5. Micah 4:4 talks about how each person will "sit under his own vine and fig tree". This means that each person will be content with what he has, and not envy his neighbor's possessions. In what ways can we learn to be more content with the things that God has given us, instead of always wanting something else?
6. The promise at the end of verse 5 is that we will "walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever". What does it look like for us today, in our culture, to walk in the name of the LORD?

Scriptures for further study: Revelation 21:1-5,

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Non Believers or New Believers

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. Micah 4:1 describes a time when the Lord's temple will be "raised above the hills", which is probably a way of indicating the prominence of the Lord's house in terms of the thoughts and actions of the nations. (Kaiser) What is uppermost in your heart and affections? What is most prominent right now in your thought life? Is knowing and worshiping God the number one thing in your life?
2. Micah 4:1-5 speaks of a coming future ("in the last days"). This future is guaranteed to happen because it is based on God's Word: "for the Lord Almighty has spoken" (verse 4). The biblical definition of "hope" is a conviction and certainty about our future, based on God's Word. According to this definition, do you have a certain hope regarding your own future? Have you trusted and believed in God and allowed Him to give you that certainty about how things will end up for you?
3. Micah 4:1-5 describes a coming day in which there will be tranquility, relaxation, security, peace, and prosperity. In some ways you could say that things will one day return to a state similar to the original Paradise. The Bible elsewhere speaks of a time when there will be no more death, or mourning, or crying, or pain (see Revelation 21:1-5). These will all pass away. What are you most looking forward to when God creates a new earth? What parts of this earth/life will you be happy to never experience again? Rest in the thought that for those who are in Christ, these realities will be yours.
4. Micah 4:2 says that "He will teach us in His ways, so that we may walk in His paths". Notice the link between knowledge and living. Are you seeking to know God's Word and gain knowledge of His will? Are you desiring to learn His Word? If so, remember that He wants us to learn His word for the purposes of actually living out, or "walking" in His ways.
5. Micah 4:4 describes a person who is "sitting under his own fig tree", which is a word picture for a person who is content with what he or she has. The opposite of contentment might be consumerism, always desiring to acquire or have more. What about you? Would you describe yourself as more driven by consumerism or are you "sitting" in contentment based on all that you already have spiritually in Christ, and materially in terms of all that He has already given to you?