

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

October 3, 2021

“A WEIGHTY AND WISTFUL HOPE”

Micah 4:6-8 ESV

6 In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; **7** and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore. **8** And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.

Big Idea

God’s preserving grace in Jesus Christ strengthens the weak to endure destruction and devastation with a weighty and wistful hope.

Outline

1. Destruction & Devastation

2. God’s Preserving Grace

3. A Weighty and Wistful Hope

Gospel Applications:

Praise to Jesus - Praise Him that in our weakness and weariness, God has provided strength in the person and work of His Son who is our Savior...the one who is with us always...His mercy and grace will not fail us even as the world falls apart around us.

Repentance through Jesus - To repent of the many ways we look to security and confidence outside of Christ...that when danger surrounds us, we run to earthly comforts and fleeting strongholds for salvation instead of the One who is our salvation.

Consecration for Jesus - To rededicate yourselves to clinging to the living Hope we have in Jesus...and as a result of clinging to Jesus, that when devastation and destruction surround you, though it may make you weak, you can find strength in Jesus...strength to move forward in faith.

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 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. Thinking about the Big Idea. What is meant by God's preserving grace? How can God's preserving grace strengthen the weak? What does wistful mean? Recall a time when you were wistful.

2. The first point is "Destruction & Devastation". What are the words from the passage which inform what destruction and devastation look like (see verse 6)? According to the sermon, "One scholar says, 'The scene is of devastation, trauma, and weakness". Take a moment to reflect on the circumstances of your life? How might God be using these circumstances in your life? Do I see God's purifying work as evidence of His love?

3. The second point is "God's Preserving Grace". What does the word "preserve" mean? Psalm 121 tells us that the Lord "keeps" or is our "keeper" six times in eight verses. God wants his people to be convinced that He's got them no matter what. What other encouragement from the sermon is our assurance that God will make good on what He says he will do? (Hint look for this little affirmative statement in Micah 4:6 and Micah 4:7, the same statement can be found in Gen. 2:18, 6:18, 17:16 and many other places in the Bible especially Matt. 28:20). How can this be a comfort? Ask the Lord to bring to mind others whom He might use you to share this comfort.

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

4. The third point is “Weighty & Wistful Hope”. From the sermon what is meant by the word, “weighty”? The rationale behind the word “weighty” is incredibly important and relevant to living the Christian life with confidence and hope (have a look at Micah 4:8 which says, “And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem”). What picture of security does this verse describe? In what ways does God exert “dominion” over the earth? What then is our hope in times of devastation (see 1 John 4:4 & Romans 8:31)

5. **Praise to Jesus** - Praise Him that in our weakness and weariness, God has provided strength in the person and work of His Son who is our Savior...the one who is with us always...His mercy and grace will not fail us even as the world falls apart around us. From the sermon we find great comfort in the many “I will” statements in the Bible. This week ask the Holy Spirit to help you recall some “I will” statements of God as motivation to praise the Lord for His incredible faithfulness! Perhaps pray for and write a note of encouragement to a discouraged family member or friend.

6. **Repentance through Jesus**- To repent of the many ways, we look to security and confidence outside of Christ...that when danger surrounds us, we run to earthly comforts and fleeting strongholds for salvation instead of the One who is our salvation. In the moments of the week, schedule pauses for reflection. Ask the Lord to reveal the places where you might be letting devastation and destruction around you cause fear or doubt. Take some time to confess these and repent.

7. **Consecration for Jesus** - To rededicate yourselves to clinging to the living Hope we have in Jesus...and as a result of clinging to Jesus, that when devastation and destruction surround you, though it may make you weak, you can find strength in Jesus...strength to move forward in faith.

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Families and Young Children

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

1. Talk together. What is something that a baby might find fun to play with that mom or dad will have to take away to protect the baby from harm? Would it be wrong for mom or dad to allow the baby to play with something that was harmful even if it seemed really like a good thing to the baby?

2. What does mom and dad see that the baby doesn't see? What does the baby often do when mom or dad take something away from them? Why do mom and dad do this for their baby?

3. In the same way God takes things away from his children to protect them and so that they know He loves them and keeps them safe.

4. Read Isaiah 43:5a & Psalm 56:3 & Psalm 121:7. What does the Bible tell us why we can have courage. Like a mom or dad holds a baby's hand, the Lord holds us and protects us.

5. Take some time to list all the ways that God protects his children.

Scriptures for further study: Psalm 18:10, Joshua 1:9b

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Students

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

1. How do you tend to deal with the existence of pain in your life? Do you think those reactions are helpful, unhelpful, or a mixture?
2. God's people were both lame and blessed. How is this the case for you?
3. How does your perspective change to know that as a Christian, only the second (the blessed / remnant / verse 7) will last?
4. Read the story of Jacob's wrestling with God in Genesis 32:22-32. Micah's usage of the word "lame" described Jacob's lameness. Was the limp that Jacob received from God a punishment or blessing?

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. Let's go back and read again the first verses of this chapter (4:1-2). Notice that people from all over the world will come to worship God in the Lord's house on Mount Zion. This indicates a rejection of other gods and other places of worship. But today we often hear that all religions are the same, or all forms of worship are equally valid, or all roads lead to salvation. Scripture expressly states the opposite. There is only one true God (John 17:3), and one true way of salvation (Acts 4:12; John 14:6), and the Lord God alone is to be worshiped in spirit and truth (John 4:22-24). Take time to actually compare the vast and incompatible differences among the religions and their various truth claims. Recognize that only Christ offers a salvation that is based on grace, and a relationship with Him that is based not on what we must DO but on what He has already DONE. This is the beautiful difference!

2. Some scholars think that Micah 4:7 is quite possibly an allusion to the story of Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32, which resulted in God leaving Jacob with a limp. But it also led to Jacob receiving a new name and identity, and to Jacob being given the new character of one who was teachable, humble, and able to be used by God. (David Prior) Maybe you are also wrestling with God right now. Will you yield to Him? Will you let him change your identity, and change your whole life and purpose?

3. These words from Micah 4:5-8 refer to a future day ("in that day"). From our vantage point, we can see that what Micah predicts here in this passage would later be fulfilled in the coming of the true king (v.8), Jesus Christ. Did you know that Jesus' life and ministry fulfilled over 300 prophecies like this from the Old Testament?

4. Just as this passage speaks of the Lord gathering those who are lame and who are experiencing grief (Micah 4:1), so also does Jesus call upon us to bring Him our troubles and sorrows because He cares for us (Matthew 11:28-30). He declared that He had come to bring healing, release from oppression, and freedom from the things that bind us (Luke 4:18-20). To what or to whom are you turning to find comfort or help, or perhaps freedom from what binds you? Are you looking to Jesus alone to provide what you truly need?