

After Darkness, Light - Micah 4:1-13 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

God's Word is really an amazing spectacle. So full of light, beauty, truth, hope. But to understand what God is saying in our day, we really need to be students of all of Scripture. The prophets are difficult, speaking of judgment, justice, and often disaster for God's people and the world around them. The first three chapters of Micah has been chock full of indictments, calls to repentance, and predictions of coming judgments. In the 7th Century BC God's people had drifted a long way from the covenant they made with God at Mount Sinai. God made promises, He would be faithful. But their injustice, oppression, and idolatry became a scourge to the name of God and for the lives of the people of God. So God sends His prophet to present the case and warn that the justice they are due is coming. Micah warned the Northern Kingdom that Assyria would conquer them and make them slaves, and by the time He is preaching the content of chapter 4 that horrible event had happened. Micah has also warned of their coming day of reckoning which will be brought by a new empire, the Babylonians.

Yet, to understand the prophets fully we also have to know that they don't end here, with the warnings and coming judgments. The prophets offer us the greatest hope, giving poetic images of coming days where God will rescue, restore, and make all things new and right. They begin looking past the judgments and difficult days ahead and begin prophetically seeing the whole story and God's full redemption plan. Micah 4-5 is this type of beautiful picture of God's ultimate plan and unfolding redemption plan. And the images are incredible.

In the first few verses Micah points us to the Mountain of God. Jews would have understood the meaning, this is speaking of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. While the Temple was at the top of the hill, it was in no way the tallest peak in Israel. But for worshipers of Jehovah, it was where heaven met earth and God was to dwell with His people. Yet, at times the Temple went decades without worship and sacrifices. Meanwhile, shrines to other gods were placed on the taller hills as the Hebrews turned to the idolatrous gods of the nations who let them live as they chose and gave them all they wanted. Yet here, Micah tells of a day when the Mountain of the House of the LORD will ascend to be the tallest mountain, and people from all nations will leave their puny hills and shrines to come worship Jehovah so He can, "Teach His ways so that we may walk in His paths." Notice something glorious, the promise here is not about Israel, it is about the salvation of the nations (that is you and me). The story Micah tells goes on to speak of the end of war, the laying down of arms and end of military schools, the assembling of the lame, outcast, and broken in the city. He will make those who have been discarded and oppressed by Israel in the present core when the True Kingdom enters again.

Don't miss this here! The whole picture here reaches the crescendo in v. 8 as the promise of an ancient Kingdom being re-established in Jerusalem. A new Kingdom only comes when the True King is revealed. But that is the theme for chapter 5, so will have to come back next week for that. But the promises here are amazing and are the source of hope for any of God's people living in days like ours. The world is so tough right now, and it seems as if there is no real source of hope in the world. Just the last few weeks in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan are enough to cause us to wonder if there is any way out.

But for followers of Jesus, we have the prophetic word. It includes the warnings,

reminders that God does judge and that the world is broken. Our lives may be really difficult, and the ultimate salvation we long for may not come in our lifetime. But that is OK, because our moment is part of a larger unfolding story with Jesus as the center. It is a story of God's sovereignty over nations and over me. He is purposeful and working all things for His glory, my good, and the Gospel to the nations. It is a story of salvation, mine and the salvation of the nations. It is a story of sanctification. I can know that whatever is happening in the world, God is shaping me into the image of His Son for eternity and therefore in the end, even the scars are for my good. And it is a story that has a glorious happy ending, with peace, glory, and a New Jerusalem for eternity.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ezekiel 48	Judges 1	Judges 2	Judges 3	Judges 4	Judges 5	Judges 6

Reading from this past week: Micah 4:1-13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Micah 5:1-15

Family Worship

Song - *Hallelujah for the Cross*

<https://youtu.be/710eqhcJq7Y?si=Ot7v4LASCWwcyb5d>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Arrest of Jesus

Story: Jesus is our perfect High Priest

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus our perfect Priest?

Answer: Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

Scripture: Hebrews 7

New City Catechism

Question #44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Verse: Matthew 28:19

Scripture

Micah 4:1-13

- As you read Micah 4, realize it is poetic and therefore filled with images. What images in the chapter catch your attention? Why? What is Micah predicting?
- What ways is this chapter about Jesus? How does it simultaneously picture His first and second comings?
- How do prophetic chapters like this help God's people live rightly at their time in the world?

Prayer

*Give thanks for the promise of salvation and restoration God has given us in His Word.

*Spend time reading, learning, and teaching your kids the Nicene Creed. Use the fifth stanza as a prayer giving thanks for the gift of the church and eternal life.