

Thanks Brian – Final Message – Stronger Together | [Three Cats - Lost my cat...band of cat hunters](#)
[Series Big Idea – We are Stronger Together](#) | [Open Micah](#) | [Strength today...Bright Hope Tomorrow](#)
[We're not always long on strength and high on hope](#) | Micah's day was not unlike ours

Prophets are like Prosecuting attorneys – Commentary on the Torah [Prophecy takes a similar course:](#)

- [You have broken the covenant – You better repent!](#) | [No repentance – Then judgment!](#)
- [Yet, there is hope beyond judgment for a glorious, future restoration](#) (Grasping God's Word)
- Micah does | Chapter 1-2 = Sin brings Suffering | Chap. 3 = Responsibility or worse | Chap. 4 = Hope
- Micah [Similar](#)...Integrity lite leaders - Had kings...were self-consumed, divisive, and idolatrous ([huh](#))
- Still acknowledged God - Allowed and sometimes encouraged the worship of other gods ([huh](#))
- Made alliances w/foreign leaders - both government & church...preyed on & victimized own people
- **The results were twofold: decline, and drift**

- Decline = Evil took over & commands of God forsaken...nation grew weaker & weaker ([huh](#))
 - Drift = People, no longer able to trust or follow their leaders...left to their own devices ([huh](#))
- Drift happens = Lost purpose – Unity – HOPE | [What brings back? Submission...authority God...reigns](#)
[This amazing Truth - Big Idea – Where God Reigns, We Find Hope...Together](#) **READ**

Four Hope Builders that come as a result of being Under God's Reign:

1. **Confidence is Restored (1a)**

[It shall come to pass in the latter day 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](#)

Micah 3 - Judgment proclaimed against Jerusalem b/c of wickedness of leaders – Babylon – Promise Prophecy, so many in Scripture, has a dual fulfillment: ([Near-view & Far-view](#) | [Already](#) | [Mountain](#))

- Them then = Terrible (North)...but confidence | Us = Terrible...but confidence | [Confident in what?](#)

[The now and forever establishment of God's Kingdom](#) | [Temple – Jesus – Church – End Jesus!](#)

- Ultimate fulfillment when Jesus establishes His eternal kingdom and reigns for eternity
- Ongoing, now – Wherever His rule & reign is followed = Hope | Not = Destruction | [Christ or Chaos](#)
- God's eternal, completed kingdom = not yet fully realized | But give life to Christ = in His Kingdom
[This prophecy is both anticipation and joy | Long for...and Live in](#)

Micah 3 - Judgment against Jerusalem, [‘It will be plowed like a field, the city will become ruins’](#)

- Meaning it would become unrecognizable...Contrast this with the promise here...

[The mountain established as the highest of mountains, lifted up above everything else](#)
Ancient - Mountains were geographical locations kings (g)ods ([fake](#)) ruled and reigned over people
[‘It shall come to pass...’](#) – Trump all power structures: Social – Political – Religious | **It will happen**

- God is giving us a promise to assure confidence – [pre-GPS](#) | [Reference point...Sandia Mountains](#)
[In the same way, God's reign gives us a reference point – Because we can get lost...](#)

- Israelites...relied on various gods, corrupt kings, or other predatory leaders - Same as us...

[Has your hope waned? Strength sapped? Fix your eyes on the presence of God...Holy Mt. Jesus](#)
[Confidence Restored – One day all power: seen/unseen – strong/weak – good/bad = Give way God's Reign](#)

2. **People are Redeemed (1b-2)**

[and peoples shall flow to it, 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.](#)

[Under God's Reign: Many nations & people will seek the Lord, turn to His Truth, Live His way](#) | [Few Things:](#)

- [God's heart has always been all people](#) - Israel failed: be light by which all people would see God
 - But yet prophecy makes clear that people from many nations will see him and come to him
 - [God's heart has always been for redemption](#) - Those who come to the house of the Lord find life
 - Learn His ways - walk in His path = we know that His ways and his path leads to eternal life.
 - [God's heart has always been for relationship](#) - God's law...Zion | God's Word...Jerusalem | 700 bc
 - Jerusalem = Law and the Prophets...fulfilled...crucifixion and resurrection of Christ
 - Jerusalem = Where the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church at Pentecost
 - Jerusalem = Where the church was established...God's Word was delivered...including you & me
- [Jesus is God's Word made flesh – Though Him the Kingdom of God is established in people | 1 by 1](#)

[Think about the people referenced here: Following different paths - trying different things](#)

- [Seeking truth - purpose – hope](#) | [See the mountain of the house of the Lord towering everything](#)
 - [“let's go there” and the wandering ceases – We point people toward the mountain](#)
 - [May we look back to the mountain and remember our redemption and our confidence in him](#)

[And when we do this, the worry and the fear that is so prominent around us will be replaced](#)

3. **Fear is Replaced (3-4)**

[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; 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.](#)

Ever watched conflict – geopolitical war / two kids – someone needs to sit them down & sort it out?

- If there were an authority both parties deferred, the conflict could ultimately be resolved
- The problem is...people don't want to recognize that external authority...one day, that will all change
[One day God's reign will be undisputed, his authority will be complete, and his Word will be final](#)

[Micah gives us some beautiful images of the kind of change that occurs under the Lord's reign:](#)

- [Swords & Spears into plowshares & pruning hooks](#) | Lots of swords and spears
 - [Economists estimate \\$1.9 trillion was spent on military budgets around the world in 2020](#)
 - [\\$1.9 trillion, spent conquest or defense against conquest | Russia 900M Per day – Ukraine](#)
 - [In the world we live in, this spending is sadly necessary, because nations do rise up against nations](#)
[No doubt some conflict is unavoidable...suppress those who conquer and kill for dominion](#)
 - The thing about all these resources: they're not productive. **Conquest is a zero-sum game**
 - Plowshares & pruning hooks = productivity & prosperity...Give instead of take | [Look like today?](#)
 - [P of K Stop selfish conquests to gain more influence, riches, validation, at the expense of others?](#)
 - [Put our resources – physical, mental, and spiritual – to work creating things of real value?](#)
- [‘Every man will sit under his fig tree’ – Fun is that!?! Under God's reign...contentment is possible](#)
Aggression, restlessness, & want...replaced with peace and contentment...[No one shall make them afraid.](#)
How good...prophetic message...No one shall make them afraid = GOSPEL | **Replaces fear with hope**
[When God reigns, fear is replaced...war will end - Rest & satisfaction be given by God in perfect provision](#)
[Combat fear & anxiety over our own self-preservation... instead look at things beyond ourselves](#)

[And this is what God's reign in our lives does for us: Finally...it reveals eternal truth.](#)

4. **Truth is Revealed (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.](#)

Final wonderful prophetic Truth – One day...The Truth will be revealed – [Look at the capitalization ‘g’- gods](#) | [All power structures: Social – Political – Religious...contrast to God](#)

All people from all times will one day know that Jesus is Lord...Verse 5 divides us all!

[but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever...give us Five Future Promises](#)

Future Promises: Strength for today...bright hope for tomorrow

- [Wandering to Welcomed](#) – People will flow to it...nations will come and say – mountain
- [War to Work](#) – Neither shall they learn war anymore
- [Destruction to Development](#) - Swords / plowshares | Spears / Pruning hooks
- [Conquest to Creation](#) – Sit under his vine and fig tree
- [Empty to Eternal](#) – Walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever

PERFECT TIME TO GO INTO COMMUNION – TOGETHER

Listen to the Prophet Micah

- You have broken the covenant – You better repent!
- No repentance – Then judgment!
- Yet, there is hope beyond judgment for a glorious, future restoration...JESUS

Over 2700 years ago – Prophecy...centers on fulfillment of God's Kingdom – Significance...even more

[Closer to the end... Last days – Began coming of Christ and will culminate with His second coming](#)

[Big Idea – Where God Reigns, We Find Hope...Together](#)