

3: King of Hope

Have you ever felt like all HOPE is LOST? Today we discover that, in the middle of all this mess, there is HOPE on the horizon for those who turn from sin & turn to Jesus - the King of Hope!

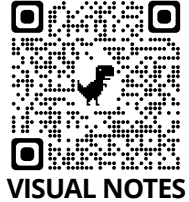


teachingnotes

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* Bible Translation: **NIV** (New International Version) & **CSB** (Christian Standard Bible)



TODAY'S TEACHING

Today we conclude this mini-series in the Old Testament of MICAH. God has put His people on trial for refusing to **Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Him.** God's judgment is coming.

Micah 7:1-6 (NIV)

What misery is mine! I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave. The faithful have been swept from the land; **not one upright person remains.** Everyone lies in wait to shed blood; they hunt each other with nets. Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire—they all conspire together. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.

The day God visits you has come, the day your watchmen sound the alarm. Now is the time of your confusion. Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with the woman who lies in your embrace guard the words of your lips. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's **enemies are the members of his own household.**

Both hands are skilled in doing evil - These people super skilled in doing evil. (And you thought You had it bad!)

Micah's Response in the Middle of the Mess

Micah 7:7 (NIV)

But as for me, **I watch in hope for the LORD,** I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Darkness is coming, but there is HOPE on the distant horizon. While Jerusalem is going to be destroyed and many of its people taken into exile (Mic 4:9-10), Jerusalem and the rest of Israel will be restored.

Israel's Future Hope

Micah 7:11-12 (NIV)

The day for building your walls will come, the day for extending your boundaries. In that day people will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, even from Egypt to the Euphrates and from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

Micah prays and longs for right relationship with God, when not only the Hebrews, but people from all over the world - even former enemies - will come to Jerusalem seeking Yahweh. Micah closes his writing remembering the goodness of God.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

🔍 Remember that **Micah** means “*Who is like Yahweh?*”? The answer? NONE!

Micah 7:18-20 (NIV)

Who is a God like you, Who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but **delight to show mercy**. You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and **hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea**. You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago. You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and **hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea**. You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.

Despite the depth of these sins, Micah is confident that the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE Who has judged them guilty will **again have compassion** on His sinful people.

2 powerful images that describe God's desire to forgive:

- Yahweh will **tread our sins underfoot** - language for conquering an enemy (Ps 91:13)
- Yahweh will throw these sins **into the depths of the sea** - these sins are NEVER to be seen again!

✓ These last 3 verses of Micah are read in the synagogue during the afternoon of the Day of Atonement.

🌟 **C.L. Feinberg** writes: “On the afternoon of New Year, the orthodox Jew goes to a running stream or river and symbolically empties his pockets of his sins into the water, while he recites verses 18–20.”¹

In the middle of the mess, Micah remembers the heartbeat of God who **delights to show mercy**.

HOPE mentioned through Micah

Micah 4:1-2 (NIV)

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. **He will teach us His ways**, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, **the word of the LORD from Jerusalem**.

The LORD - Yahweh will **teach us His ways** and the **word of Yahweh** will go out **from Jerusalem**. It seems like this is more than a representative Yahweh teaching what He says, but looks like Yahweh Himself who is teaching His ways.

Micah 4:3-4 (NIV)

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

The Presence of Yahweh will bring right judgement and peace between enemies. While some of this might be **FUTURE** for us, there is more that might lead us to recognize that what was **FUTURE** for this ancient audience is **PRESENT** for us. In Jesus, those who were once enemies can become family.

Captive Israel Regathered

Micah 2:12-13 (NIV)

I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. The One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. **Their King will pass through before them**, the LORD at their head.

God will bring the people back to **Israel** from where they've been scattered, **the LORD (Yahweh) at their head**. This language is similar to Exodus 13:21 where Yahweh went ahead of the people to lead them with a **CLOUD** during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

🔍 Who is **their King will pass before them** like a shepherd who leads his people **like a flock in its pasture**?

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

¹ C.L. Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago: Moody, 1976), 186.

A Ruler Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-3 (NIV)

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.** 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.

❓ **WHO is this talking about** - a King from ancient origins, who will teach God's ways and judge righteously?

When King Herod asked where the Messiah, the "king of the Jews" was to be born ([Mat 2:1-4](#)), the religious leaders answered:

Matthew 2:5-6 (NIV) "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for **out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.**"

These men were pointing back to the very passage from Micah that we are reading from as they spoke of the birth of Jesus.

Micah 5:4a (NIV)

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

After Jesus is born in Bethlehem, this describes His ministry.

Matthew 9:36 (NIV) When He saw the crowds, **He had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

This Shepherd wouldn't just LEAD His sheep, He would BLEED for His sheep. Jesus spoke about His upcoming death several times.

John 10:11 (NIV) **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

After the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus warned them of what was coming that very night.

Mark 14:27 (NIV) "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: " **'I will strike the shepherd**, and the sheep will be scattered.' [Zech 13:7]

Jesus, **The Good Shepherd**, *gave His life to pay for their sins...and yours.*

Micah 5:4-5a (NIV)

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.** And He will be our peace...

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus promised to empower His disciples to **take His greatness to the ends of the earth.**

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**

WE get to be part of THAT! - to carry the message about the **King of Hope** across the street and across the ocean!

Jesus the Good Shepherd & Righteous Judge

Matthew 25:32 (NIV)

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and **He will separate the people** one from another **as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**

The Good Shepherd knows those who are His (Jn 10:14) and those who are not. The righteous judgement of the Good Shepherd WILL BE FINAL. **Followers of Jesus** have great HOPE, but those who reject Jesus should be *concerned.*

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

If THAT DAY were TODAY what would Jesus say to YOU, your family, or friends?

Matthew 25:34 (NIV)

Then the King will say to those on his right, **'Come**, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, **the kingdom prepared for you** since the creation of the world.

Matthew 25:41 (NIV)

Then He will say to those on his left, **'Depart from me**, you who are **cursed, into the eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.

FEET 2 FAITH

› **Turn from sin and turn to the King of Hope.**

› **Take the Good News to others.**

COMMUNION

- Communion/Lord's Supper is ONLY for followers of Jesus who are walking in right relationship with Him.
- If you claim to follow Jesus but are living in continual sin without confessing and turning from that...then today, you SHOULD NOT PARTAKE. Let the bread and juice pass...no one will judge you or ask you for a reason.
- If you don't yet claim to be a follower of Jesus, relax and watch how we observe this ancient practice for a few minutes. It's okay to let the bread and juice pass by you as well.

Luke 22:14-20 (CSB)

When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And He **took bread**, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is **My body, which is given for you**. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you**."

Communion celebrates past payment and the future promise of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:26 (CSB)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes**.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. What challenged/encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why that was most impactful to you.
2. After reading through Micah, and hearing his hope in **Micah 7:7-20**, share some encouragements that you appreciate and why.
3. While the message of Micah pointed to the regathering of the scattered Hebrews, there was a more significant hope on the distant horizon - the KING of HOPE. Go back and **read Micah 4:1-4, Micah 2:12-13, Micah 5:2-5** and talk about the characteristics of the Ruler that Micah predicted. Then talk about how Jesus fulfilled all of that!
4. As we conclude this Micah mini-series, what have you learned about the importance of viewing the Old Testament through the New Testament (and vice-versa)?
5. Share your prayer needs and lift each other up to our God Who listens!