



Sermon Title: Micah week 2
Sermon Title: *The End of All Fear*
Date: 8/21/2022

Micah 3-4

Micah prophesied to the Jewish people who had split into two nations: The Southern Kingdom (Judah) and the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Micah addresses the rampant idolatry in both nations, as well as corrupt leadership. The mighty and cruel Assyrian Empire will soon conquer nearly the entire ancient near east. They are days of insecurity, hardship, and fear.

Big Idea: Take heart... God will bring an end to every fear.

We will look at two encouragements

Encouragement #1: Take heart... Despite the current moral climate
Micah 3:1–2a, 4

Micah indicts first the political leaders. There is a disturbing tendency for the powerful to use their power to exploit the poor and powerless. Micah saw a time when these powerful men would cry out to God for help, and He would not listen.

It wasn't just the political leaders but also the religious. **Micah 3:5.** When prophets say what is expedient, God will be silent. To whom do you listen or watch for spiritual input? How do you choose the "prophetic" voices to follow? (**1 John 4:1**)

Consider four tests to distinguish true from false prophets.

1st Follow the Money. True prophets generally don't get rich when they speak for God.

2nd Who are the prophet's patrons or friends? True prophets befriend the powerless. False prophets prefer the rich and powerful.

3rd For whom does the prophet speak? A prophet who ignores the sins of the power brokers doesn't speak for God.

4th How does the prophet speak? A prophet's voice may ring with righteous concern but not with hatred. He may warn of judgment, but he yearns for his hearers to turn.

When God's people followed the wrong voices (both politically and religiously), it led to disaster. **Micah 3:11-12**

Micah's prophecy was a bombshell to the elite of Jerusalem. That's where the Temple was God's presence. They assumed God was on their side.

Encouragement #2: Take heart... Because God is sovereignly at work
Micah 4

Micah's prophecies cover both the "immediate future" and the "eventual future." Not unusual for prophetic passages. On the one hand, he describes imminent disaster at the hands of first the Assyrians, then Babylonians. On the other hand, he describes the distant future when all people will worship the One True God. It will be a time of universal peace. **Micah 4:3b**

It's the future we call Christ's Millennial reign. And Yahweh will reign over the earth. Jerusalem will be the capital city of a renewed planet earth.

Before that comes about, something must take place. **Micah 4:10-13** compress two time periods separated by many centuries. The 1st part is when Babylon will attack and conquer Israel. **Micah 4:10b**. At the 2nd event, God promises to restore them to the land. **Micah 4:11-13**.

In Micah 4:11, "many nations" speaks of a great conflict described several times in prophecy (**Joel 3; Zech 12, 14; Ezek 38, 39**). We know it as the Battle of Armageddon that immediately precedes Christ's return.

These verses look to the end of our age, to the final cataclysmic campaign against Israel that we call Armageddon. Nations will gather from all over to destroy Israel & the Jews. **Revelation 16:16**

On that day, help will come, not from the US or any other nation. Rather, it will come from the Lord. Under the leadership of their Messiah, Israel finally vanquishes their enemies. **Micah 4:13**.

What does this mean for you and me?

- 1) **You can trust the Bible**. Have confidence that God's word is true. Everything Micah (and the other prophets) accurately predict the future. Not just invasions of Assyria and Babylon. But numerous other prophecies as well.

Micah 5:2... Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth
Isaiah 7:14... Jesus born to a virgin

Isaiah 44:28... Decree of Cyrus the Mede to rebuild Jerusalem
Isaiah 53... The future suffering of Jesus as our Passover Lamb

2) This is a time for preparation, not discouragement. Despite the mess in which you observe our nation and the world. The Bible tells us to expect this. And be prepared for Christ's return. You and I have fair warning.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some reasons that we can know that the Bible is trustworthy?**
- **Do you have any fears that affect your life? Explain. How does your faith help you deal with that fear?**
- **Why, amongst the discouraging times, should we be preparing?**
- **How can we guard ourselves against false prophets, and in what ways can we use those guards as a litmus test for leaders as well?**