

The Messiah's People Micah 5:5b-15

1. His people will be SECURE (v.5b-6)

“When the Assyrian comes into our land
and treads in our palaces,”

“then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men;
⁶ they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the
sword,
and the land of Nimrod at its entrances;”

The Greatest Enemy

- In Israel's history:
 - The Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Philistines, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians
- In the early church
 - The Romans, the Jews, King Herod, Nero
- Spiritual
 - Satan, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms, sin, death

The Fullest Leadership

- Seven shepherds and eight princes of men
 - Symbolic for full and abundant leaders for the people of God

“and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian
when he comes into our land
and treads within our border.”

**Under the reign of Messiah, the people are secure
and protected from their worst fear.**

What is your worst fear?

The Strongest Deliverer

- The Lord is the one to deliver His people from the great enemy

“For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

2. His people will STAND OUT (v.7-8)

⁷ Then the remnant of Jacob shall be
in the midst of many peoples
like dew from the LORD,
like showers on the grass,
which delay not for a man
nor wait for the children of man.

⁸ And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the
nations,
in the midst of many peoples,
like a lion among the beasts of the forest,
like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,
which, when it goes through, treads down
and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.

Delightful

- Dew and showers bring refreshment and fruitfulness to all they touch.
- The people of God will have a renewing and beneficial effect on all around them.
 - A provision of grace from the Lord

Dangerous

- Christians use one weapon
- “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

3. His people will be SANCTIFIED

⁹Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries,
and all your enemies shall be cut off.

¹⁰And in that day, declares the LORD,
I will cut off your horses from among you
and will destroy your chariots;

¹¹and I will cut off the cities of your land
and throw down all your strongholds;

Stripped of SAFETY and SECURITY

- Not content with Yahweh's security
 - Psalm 121, 124, 125
- Removal of safety devices
 - Horses/chariots
- Removal of places of refuge
 - Cities/strongholds
- *What do you look to for power?*
- *Where do you find your strength?*
- *What do you take refuge/find security in?*

¹²and I will cut off sorceries from your hand,
and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;

Stripped of SUPERSTITIONS

- Not content with Yahweh's revelation
- Removal of religious substitutes and manipulative faith
- "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." Colossians 2:8
- "O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called 'knowledge,' for by professing it some have swerved from the faith." 1 Timothy 6:20-21
- *How do you attempt to control your future?*
- *What decisions or outcomes do you hang your future happiness on?*

¹³and I will cut off your carved images
and your pillars from among you,
and you shall bow down no more
to the work of your hands;

¹⁴and I will root out your Asherah images from
among you
and destroy your cities.

¹⁵And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance
on the nations that did not obey.

Stripped of SYNCRETISM

- Syncretism: the combination of different forms or systems of belief
 - Religion, philosophy, culture
 - Christian Science, Mormonism, Unitarianism, Prosperity Gospel, Post-modernism
 - Christianity mixed with:
 - Moralism
 - Individualism
 - Nationalism
 - Materialism
 - Mysticism
- Seeking to add to God's Word
- Seeking to manipulate God's worship
- *What do we trust more than God for future fruitfulness, productivity, effectiveness, financial gain, satisfaction?*

Jesus, the Messiah, Prays John 17

For His people to be SECURE

“Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” (v.11-12)

For His people to STAND OUT

Like dew:

“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” (v.22-23)

Like a lion:

“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (v.14-15)

For His people to be SANCTIFIED

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.” (v.17-19)

Living in the Reality of being the People of the Messiah

We are SECURE

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:28-30

We STAND OUT

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

We are being SANCTIFIED

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

DISCUSSION

1. What do we hold on to or seek to feel secure in this life?
2. How does understanding security in Christ change your perspective on life?
3. How do we as Christians stand out like dew? How do we stand out like lions in our culture?
4. What has the Lord “cut off” from your life that has been for your good and your sanctification?
(Security, defenses, superstitions, etc.)
5. What aspects of syncretism are present in our modern American Christian life?
6. How can we seek to live in the reality of being the people of the Messiah?

HOMEWORK

READ

“The Horrific Cost of Syncretism” by Bill Muehlenberg

REFLECT

1. From the class discussion and from this article, where do you feel most convicted of syncretism in your own life?
2. How do we combat the influences of syncretism all around us?
3. How should we engage in the culture (sports, entertainment, etc.) without worshipping it? How can we set ourselves apart in these realms?
4. How can we engage in holidays (Christmas, Easter, etc) without worshipping the ways of the culture?
5. What aspects of how you celebrate Christmas should be changed this year? Why? What will be most challenging in making the changes? What will bring God the greatest glory?

REMEMBER

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24