



Justice for the Nations

Micah 4: 1-8

- It's helpful to be mindful of where you are in relation to where you are going. That's true physically in life, and that's true spiritually.
- When I was studying abroad at a university in Paris several years ago, I remember one of the most interesting aspects of spending so much time in Paris was navigating the city day to day. The metro line map looks like giant puzzle. Several of y'all have been to major cities like that.
- I believe it was the year that the iPhone first came out. There was only one person with an iPhone in the whole group – one of our professors. The rest of us had dumb phones. Everywhere this professor went around the city, it seemed like he was glued to his phone. Navigating from one place to the next. Of course, that's what we all do now. But I remember thinking, "He's going to get lost because he never looks up from that thing."

- The rest of us had to take a physical map with us and plan a route ahead of time to the place that we intended to go. That's a different strategy entirely.
- I think that has a lot of implications spiritually because we need to be able to clearly see where we are now and where we are going in the future.
- We can't predict the future, and we can't know everything about the future. But there are things that God has shown us in His Word about the plan that He has for the world.
- In the middle of the Book of Micah, there is a pause from addressing the events of their current day. Micah starts to address the plan of God for all of humanity.

Main Point: The Lord will bring about an end to this world in a way that brings justice and healing.

- I am so thankful that I can put my hope in that. God knows exactly what He is doing, and as Charles Stanley once said, **"We can always count on God to do the right thing."**

I. God's House

- a. Micah looks to the future, and God gives Him a prophecy about the end times.

VERSE 1 – the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established.

- b. There are a few things we should recognize about the house of God.

- i. This is His house. There is possession here, and it is established.

- ii. He invites us in and prepares a place for us. **John 14 – My father's house**

- has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you.**

- iii. It is aspirational– raised above the hills and chief of the mountains.

1. Much of the worship in the OT was framed in that reference – going up to worship God.

2. The tabernacle and the Ark, Moses going up to Mt. Sinai. Isaiah goes up in a vision to the throne room of God. Psalms 120-134 are known as the Psalms of Ascent. Sung literally while Jewish pilgrims were walking up to Jerusalem to worship. Psalm 122: 1 – I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

iv. People will stream to it. Many people groups will seek to come and know the Lord.

c. The Hebrew term for house here doesn't just mean a structure. It is in reference to a household. It was built for a family. There are rooms intended to be filled with the household.

II. God's Word

a. VERSE 2

b. He will teach us His ways...we may walk in His paths. Instruction will go out from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

c. Notice the sequence of events here: His Word is going out so that everyone else can form their lives after it. It's not that God's Word is intended to be shaped by how we live our lives.

d. God's Word is the standard.

i. Illustration: I don't know about you, we have probably received around 10,000 political mailers at our house this year.

- ii. It has me going to the mailbox wishing I will open it up and see bills instead of someone asking for a vote.
- iii. It's interesting how some will say anything in order to get elected. They look to see what you want to hear and then form their words based on that.
- iv. That's not the way God's Word works. God's Word doesn't form to our every whim and desires. We are to form our lives based on God's Word.
- e. There are many other events and circumstances to look for in the end times. Some good and some not so good.
- f. One thing we know will happen – God's Word will prevail.
- g. Philippians 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

III. God's Peace

- a. VERSE 3 and 4
- b. I want to encourage you with this about the future – the Bible is clear that peace will come. Eternal peace. Everlasting peace.
- c. Any sort of peace we experience right now is temporal. It seems like when you get done going through one issue there seems to be another right around the corner. We live with this tension in our world today.
- d. Isaiah 11 specifically says that this peace will be brought by the branch of Jesse. Jesus is the one who is able to bring about this peace. Jesus and Jesus alone.

- i. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
- e. In order for there to be peace, there first has to be judgement for the wrongdoers.
- f. The same is true in any society. If you want to have peace among the people, you have to bring to justice those who would seek to do harm.
- g. Judgement for the unrighteous. Peace for the people of God.

IV. God's People

- a. VERSE 7
- b. The lame into a remnant. Those far removed into a strong nation.
- c. This is a work that only God can do.
- d. 1 Peter 2 talks of the stone that the builders rejected – He is our cornerstone. The one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.
- e. VERSE 9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.