



Jesus is Our Hope

Micah 5: 1-6

- As we have studied through the Book of Micah a constant, reoccurring theme that is addressed is seeking justice to the glory of God and the good of others.
- It matters how we live our lives, how we respond in adversity, how we steward our resources, how we raise our children, and how we navigate all the complexities of relationships.
- It matters because there is a right way to do those things, and there are plenty of wrong ways to do those things as well.
- This book is our guide in all things concerning faith and practice. We don't worship this book, but we do worship the God of this book. He has revealed His attributes and His plan to us in this book.

- That's critical to understanding the Christian worldview – Scripture is the lens from which we view the issues of this life. We are compelled to seek God's will and not our own. To conform to His standards of righteousness and not make it up as we go.
- When we fail God is always there, willing and able to forgive.
- That points us to the heart of the Gospel. Where do we look for this perfect standard of righteousness? It certainly isn't show by looking to ourselves.
- *Even in the Old Testament, God's plan was to point us to Jesus.* That has been God's plan from the beginning, even in the book of Genesis. But we see that reiterated in passages like this one in Micah.

Main point: As believers, we put our hope in Jesus and not the things of this world.

- *If you want to understand anything about justice, we have to look to Jesus.*
- It's amazing to read about God's plan in such detail even hundreds of years before the actual arrival of Jesus.

I. Jesus has always been

- Micah 5:2 is one of the most remarkable prophecies in all of Scripture. Written seven centuries before the birth of Jesus, it pinpoints Bethlehem as the birthplace of the coming Ruler. But the prophecy doesn't stop there. It reaches beyond history into eternity, declaring that His "origins are from of old, from ancient days." Jesus did not begin at Bethlehem. He was simply revealed there.
- John opens his Gospel with the same staggering truth: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Before the universe existed, Jesus was. Colossians 1:17 adds: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

- Our hope is not in a good man who lived and died. Our hope is in the eternal Son of God – the One who holds creation itself in His hands.
- **Illustration:** In 1947, a young Bedouin shepherd stumbled upon clay jars hidden in the caves of Qumran near the Dead Sea. Inside were ancient scrolls, including a complete copy of the book of Isaiah dated to approximately 150 B.C. – more than a century before Jesus was born. When scholars compared this ancient text to the Isaiah we read today, it matched almost word for word. Those scrolls proved what believers have always affirmed: God’s promises about Jesus were not invented after the fact. They were written in eternity and delivered through the prophets long before the manger, the cross, or the empty tomb. Our God does not improvise. He promised, and He delivered.

II. Jesus is our shepherd

- Micah 5:4 says, “He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.” Note carefully that the Shepherd doesn’t sit at a safe distance. He stands. He is present, active, and fully engaged with His people. This is the kind of shepherd that Israel had been longing for – and the kind that every human heart desperately needs.
- In John 10:11, Jesus applies this very image to Himself: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” A hireling runs at the first sign of danger. But Jesus stayed – all the way to the cross.
 - o Psalm 23, which has comforted God’s people for three thousand years, lists what a shepherd does: he leads, restores, guides, protects, and provides. In Jesus, every word of Psalm 23 finds its ultimate and perfect fulfillment.

- *“The Lord is my Shepherd” — what a divine title is here given to our Lord Jesus! He who is Jehovah, who created the heavens and the earth, stoops to be the Shepherd of His people. He does not send an angel to tend His flock – He comes Himself, bearing our sorrows and carrying our griefs, leading us beside still waters and through the valley of the shadow of death.” — Charles Spurgeon*

III. Jesus is our peace

- Perhaps the most startling two words in this entire passage are found in Micah 5:5: **“And he will be their peace.”** Not that He will bring peace. Not that He will negotiate peace or restore peace. He will be their peace. This is an extraordinary claim. ***It means that our peace is not found in our circumstances, our relationships, our health, or our finances. Our peace is found in a Person.***
- Paul unpacks this in Ephesians 2:14: **“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”** Jesus didn’t just declare peace between sinful humanity and a holy God – He became the peace. And in John 14:27, Jesus tells His disciples: **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”** The world’s peace is fragile, conditional, and temporary. The peace of Jesus is unshakeable – even in the face of trial, suffering, and death.
- Illustration: In 1944, Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbrück for hiding Jewish families in their home. The conditions were brutal – overcrowding, lice-infested bunks, starvation rations, and daily cruelty. Yet Betsie, dying of disease and exhaustion, told Corrie: **“There is no pit so deep**

that He is not deeper still.” Betsie ten Boom had found the peace that Micah promised – not the absence of suffering, but the presence of Christ in the middle of it.

- That is the hope we carry as believers. Not that life will be easy, but that Jesus – who has always been, who shepherds His flock, who is our peace – goes with us through every valley.

- *“Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ.” — A.W. Tozer*

Closing: Jesus has always been – He is the eternal Word of God who entered history to save us. Jesus is our Shepherd – He laid down His life for the sheep and He is still standing guard over His flock today. Jesus is our peace – not a feeling to be manufactured, but a Person to be trusted. This is the hope that the world cannot give and cannot take away. As believers, we do not put our hope in governments, economies, health, or human wisdom. We put our hope in Jesus.