

May 25, 2014 Sermon Application handout

“I Wish for World Peace”

Micah 4

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Pray for the Lord’s quick return, to be ready for His return, and the strength to persevere should He tarry. Come Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20-21)!
2. Read Micah 4 and make some general observations. What shall come to pass in the latter days? Who will be present on this occasion? What types of activities will take place during that time? What will be the attitudes portrayed?

II. God’s Glorious Kingdom (Micah 4:1-8)

3. What phrase does Micah open chapter 4 with? What does this typically refer to (cf. Daniel 2:44)?
4. What kind of picture does Micah give as to what this kingdom will be like (cf. Isa 2:2-4)?
5. What five characteristics does Micah give of this kingdom?
 - J_____ will be the chief city of the world (v. 1-2,7,8).
 - L_____ how to follow the Lord (2-5).
 - J_____ between many people and make decisions (3).
 - No more w_____ (3-4).
 - P_____ and p_____ for all (4-5).

6. According to verse 2, in the last days, what are the nations coming to Jerusalem for? Why is this incredible? How might this give hope and encouragement for the people during Micah's day? How does this give hope and encouragement for the believer today?

7. According to verses 3, what shall the Lord render from Jerusalem? Who will be the final authority—God or man? How might this be comforting to the believer? How might this be troubling for the unbeliever?

8. What does Micah say the nations be doing during this time (v. 3)? What will they not be doing? What will come to an end during this time? What will be established in its place?

9. Read and think through the description given in verse 4, what does this further emphasize about the last days? What kind of picture is Micah trying to convey? Will anyone be excluded, swindled, or discontent? Would this have sounded good to the people during Micah's day? Why or why not? Should this sound good to the believer today? Why or why not?

10. Re-read the end of verse 4. Who states that all of these incredible things will come to pass? What had been revealed to the people in Micah's time and the believer today about God that helps them not to be tempted to sin in unbelief (see Numbers 23:19)?

11. In light of Micah's affirmation that the coming of God's glorious kingdom is going to take place, how does he spur them on to greater holiness in verse 5? In other words, how could knowing how they will respond in the future motivate them to behave in their present day?

12. Read Luke 12:22-48. What does your Lord and Savior say you are to do as you anticipate His return? What should you be seeking? What is your posture to be like? How are you preparing for His return? What are some specific ways in which you can pursue personal holiness and nurture a deeper passion for Christ now (cf. 1 John 3:2, 2 Pet 3:14)? What are some steps you will take today to implement this into your own life?

13. Now stop and pray. Pray over your list above and ask God to help you lead a life that is expectant for the return of Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of Christ's return when you struggle with sin or are tempted to be discouraged because of trials you may be facing.

III. But Before it Gets Here (Micah 4:9-13)

14. According to Micah 4:9-10, what kind of emotions were displayed by the people? What is he talking about now—last days or immediate future? What word does he open with in this passage that helps to understand the transition? What might this teach you about how Old Testament Prophets communicated back then?

15. What is going to happen to these people about 100 years or so after Micah? Will it be pleasant for them? What people is he talking about (v. 10)? Where would they be heading? Will they eventually be rescued from there?

16. Micah makes another time shift in verse 11. Read Zechariah 12 and Revelation 16 for better understanding; where are we in history now?

17. How do the enemy nations respond in Micah 4:12-13 and what will the destruction be like for them?

18. So what is Micah's purpose in all this? Why does he think it's important to describe the Millennial kingdom, then the Babylonian exile, then Armageddon, back to the exile, and then even looks forward to Christ's birth (5:1-2)? Think for a moment; who would have been some of the hearers? What might be going through their minds? How might this message encourage them? In essence what is God going to do for them in each of these events?

19. In the same way, how do the following verses help the believer persevere in a fallen world as they wait for the Lord's Return?
 - Proverbs 15:3

 - John 10:27-30

 - John 16:33

 - Philippians 3:20-2

 - Romans 8:35-39

 - Hebrews 13:5

20. End your time by reading the following lyrics to “O Glorious Day.” Allow this to minister to your heart and worship your Savior:

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”¹

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is He
Word became flesh and the light shined among us
His glory revealed.

One day they led Him up Calvary’s mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And took the nails for me

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose, over death He had conquered
Now that He’s ascended, my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
from rising again

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing
My Savior, Jesus, is mine

(Chorus)

Living, He Loved me
Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He’s coming
Oh glorious day

¹ Casting Crowns. “O Glorious Day.” By Michael Bleeker, John Mark Hall, and Wilbur J Chapman. *Until the Whole World Hears*. Reunion, 2009. CD.

RESOURCES:

Specific Resources for Micah:

Mastering the Old Testament vol 21 by Walt Kaiser

A Commentary on Micah by Bruce Waltke (Technical)

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary vol 23a by Bruce Waltke (less technical)

Micah by Jack Riggs

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr

The Ultimate Priority on Worship by John MacArthur

Knowing God by J.I. Packer