



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series
Supports Session 12: Humble Beginnings
Sermon Title: "A Big Promise" (Micah 5:1-5a)

Connection to Micah 4:6-8; 5:1-9

The people of Jerusalem had exhausted their military options. They faced humiliation by enemy invasion of their capitol. The leaders of Jerusalem had sought military alliances rather than placing their hope in Yahweh. However, God would provide a future humble Shepherd-King who would emerge from an insignificant community to reign in God's strength.

Introduction/Opening

In self-sufficiency, the southern kingdom of Judah had forgotten that God had provided all their blessings. In disobedience and moral corruption, the capital city was to experience humiliation from a foreign enemy. Ever faithful, God would not turn His back on His rebellious people but would provide for their salvation. His redemption would be through a Messiah, an unlikely king, from an improbable place who would draw the people back to God. Micah pictured a redeemer that was fulfilled in Jesus.

Outline

1. Two Cities

- a. Jerusalem was the political, cultural, and economic center of the nation. It was a "city of troops" (5:1), a haven of human strength. The people's hearts turned away from God. Soon their backs facing God and they were headed in the wrong direction.
- b. The results of the apostasy of Jerusalem were disgrace (2:6), misery (7:1), and ruin (6:16). Eventually they were humiliated and struck on the cheek by besieging troops (5:1). No solutions would flow from here.
- c. In contrast to Jerusalem was the little town of bakeries, Bethlehem, located a few miles south of the famous walled city. Derided for lack of culture and political power, Bethlehem offered little in worldly promise.
- d. However, Bethlehem was the city of David. Samuel the prophet was directed to the small town and to the house of Jesse years before to anoint a new king for Israel.
- e. God has always been pleased to select the weak to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:18.). God is pleased to provide a savior from an unlikely place and His salvation would be not through human strength but divine favor. God called for a simple faith in Him as the answer to the defeat and humiliation suffered by His people.
- f. When the magi inquired of Herod where the king of Israel was born, the scribes sent them to Bethlehem and not Jerusalem because of Micah's prophecy (Matt. 2:4).

2. Two Kings

- a. Judgment was prophesied for the corrupt kings that had been in power in Israel. Though they occupied David's throne, they faced certain doom because of their disobedience.
- b. In the promised Messiah, God was not offering a worldly leader but a godly man. He had no political power, but He possessed divine strength.
- c. Sadly, the first king of Israel was a worldly ruler. Saul rejected the guidance of Samuel and the law of God. As a result, he failed and ended his reign in shame and defeat.
- d. The king promised by Micah would be like David, a man after God's own heart. He would be a shepherd in the strength of the Lord and reflect the majesty of the Lord (Mic. 5:4). This promised king would be their peace (5:5a).
- e. Our salvation comes from this promised King. We must not seek rescue from a warrior or wealthy person. Our hope is in a humble Savior who offers a narrow way to life (Matt. 7:13).

3. Two Kingdoms

- a. After experiencing the futility of worldly power, the children of God were pointed to a distinctive Kingdom and reign of righteousness (10:12). The humble shepherd from an insignificant place would lead by fulfilling God's law.
- b. The qualities of this kingdom were revealed when Israel was directed to the type of king they were to select before they came into the promised land. He was to be a countryman and he was not to seek power from horses (military strength), nor was he to have many wives (political power), he was to read the Torah daily and revere the Lord (Deut. 17:15-19). As a result, this kingdom would be a spiritual-based kingdom founded on God's power.
- c. We are offered salvation in Jesus Christ. We are provided the fullness of the Holy Spirit to guide our steps every day. However, a worldly church might ask, "What kind of life is that?" It is a life based on God's daily presence prompting us to lead a distinctive lifestyle.
- d. When we go to Jesus outside of the city (Heb. 13:13) we will join our unlikely king and discover His promised peace and resources. And we will be glad we did.

Conclusion

The magi located Jesus as they were willing to look for Him in an unlikely place. If we impose worldly methods and outcomes on Jesus, we will be disappointed. However, when we accept that God has provided the perfect Redeemer in Jesus, believe in Him, and follow Him, we will discover the deliverance promised by Micah.

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