



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: Hope Found

Sermon Title: “The Joy of Humility and Hope” (Micah 6:6-8; 7:19-20)

Connection to Micah 7:1-10,18-20

A catastrophe loomed for God’s chosen people. Judgment for their sin and the breakdown in society was certain (7:2,5-6). However, hope was in the salvation of God brought by His zeal to complete His plan of redemption. Furthermore, securing the day-to-day blessings of this grace was within reach.

Introduction/Opening

The Statue of Liberty stirred hope in the lives of immigrants as their ships entered New York Harbor. The prospect of a better life encouraged them, making the leaving of their homelands feel worth it. That hope was based on the promise of freedom and opportunity. The hope of Israel and the disciples of Jesus is secure in God’s eternal promises.

Outline

1. Accept the Hope of God
 - a. The hope of Israel was not founded on human strength, resolve, or commitment. The hope of Israel and of lost souls today is fixed in the Zeal and Love of God (2 Kings 19:31, Rom 5:8). His plan of salvation is motivated by the superlative love of God in Jesus Christ.
 - b. The extraordinary nature of Yahweh is presented as removing iniquity, passing over rebellion, and not holding onto wrath (7:18). His name, Jehovah or “God is salvation,” reflects His compassion and loyalty to His people (7:19-20).
 - c. Micah proclaimed that our sins will be cast into the depths of the sea (7:19). The forgiveness would be profound and complete. Such rich language points to an extraordinary hope. Isaiah proclaimed the wolf would live with the lamb and a child will lead them (Is. 11:6). Amos promised that the plowman would overtake the reaper and new wine would drip from the hills (9:13)
 - d. The superlative terms outlining the hope in God’s forgiveness was to stir the hearts of God’s people with His provision of forgiveness, restoration, and rich blessing.
 - e. The people had broken the covenant and they could not repair the relationship. However, the zeal and love of God would provide all that was needed.
 - f. The Israelites should turn from their own strength and rest in God. As Isaiah preached, the peace offered to them was perfect (Is. 26:3). They must put aside their strivings, repent, and accept the way of God (Is. 30:15).

2. Walk Humbly

- a. The key to experiencing the hope of God in the present is to walk humbly with the Lord (6:8). It was clear and within their grasp. The life-giving truth is not hidden in heaven, overseas, or otherwise concealed.
- b. Micah called for the people to live lives of simple righteousness in the pursuit of justice and faithfulness to God. They were to walk humbly and simply with the calling of God within their reach.
- c. Sin had complicated their lives, producing misery. Micah promised a life of secure borders and peace, as Moses had. This life was within reach. They were to look to the face of a loving God.
- d. Jesus explained that we are to accept the kingdom like a child, embrace the forgiveness of Jesus, and walk with Him daily. We need not live tangled in the fear, anxiety, and futility of sin. We can embrace a rich life through faith in Jesus.

3. Abide in Eternal Hope

- a. The prophets proclaimed a magnificent hope pointing to eternity in their other-worldly, superlative language, “wolf and sheep, lying together” etc.
- b. Jesus proclaimed an eternal hope that was even more specific. He was going to prepare a place for us in His Father’s house (John 14:2-3). In heaven, there would be no more grief, crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4)
- c. This hope is secure. Our eternal residence is forever secured through our faith in Jesus (Rev. 3:5) and we can never be snatched out of the hand of God (John 10:28). Peter describes our saving faith as a powerful living hope protected, kept by God, resulting in inexpressible and glorious joy (1 Pet. 1:3,5,9).
- d. God has been pleased to stir our hearts with a hope for today and tomorrow in eternity.

Conclusion

Immigrants were encouraged as the Statue of Liberty came into view in New York Harbor. The cruelty of despots was behind them. The horrors of their old life were to be no more. Their patience and transition would be rewarded as they entered a new land. Greater for the believer is the hope of a promised eternity. This kind of hope is found only in a simple belief in Jesus. There is no other way to gain true and enduring peace.

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