

Hope

Micah 4:1 - 5:5a

Bethany Assembly of God

11.15.2024

Central Proposition: You should get your hopes up for restoration.

Introduction

Can you remember a time when someone said to you, “Don’t get your hopes up”? The message we’ve heard from Micah to this point hasn’t been particularly hopeful. So, it would have been understandable if people thought that Micah was just a prophet of doom and gloom. And it would be understandable if you’ve thought to yourself, “This is a rough sermon series. It’s a bit harsh. I don’t know if I like it.” But this gives us an opportunity to learn something about the purpose of prophecy. The prophets told people that disaster was coming for the same reason that you might warn someone that disaster is coming: so that they can avoid it. That’s why God sent the prophets, not to declare judgment for no reason but so that people and nations could repent. God is just, so He will punish evil. But He is also patient, gracious, and merciful and He provides warning for people to get right with Him. But even when they don’t, God is still gracious to humanity and has a plan. Judah and Jerusalem would eventually fall to the Babylonian empire. It would look like the blessing of God was permanently gone, but that was not the case and Micah was not merely a doom and gloom preacher, but foretold a glorious future for God’s people. God was going to restore the broken, weak, hopeless state of His people and of the whole world by reestablishing His kingdom on earth and He gave three hints, telling us what He was going to do and how.

1. You will be redeemed through suffering. See Micah 4:9-10; 1 Peter 2:21; Romans 5:3-5.

They have no champion; they have no king. They are like a woman in labor, but their pain wasn’t a sign of blessing to come, only a warning of judgment. They would be sent out from their land, exiled to Babylon. It was judgment against sin and a cleansing and restart for God’s nation, but it was also indicative of how God works redemption through suffering, and the culmination of that idea was when our redemption came through the suffering of Jesus. We have been redeemed by the suffering of Jesus on our behalf and now, when we suffer, we do it by faith in Jesus and the hope of eternal life.

2. You will experience victory through God’s unusual wisdom. See Micah 4:11-13; Acts 4:27-31; Rev. 20:7-10.

God’s wisdom is unusual because He used a suffering Savior to bring redemption. This was so the promise would rest on faith. The story of the Church is a story of the nations gathering against God and His care and provision for His people through that suffering. God still redeems the suffering of His people and a day will come when Jesus returns and the nations will gather against Him one final time. Then, our suffering will finally be redeemed when Jesus defeats every enemy. Because we have hope in an unusual wisdom that redeems our suffering and those things in life we don’t understand, we can be steadfast and abound in God’s good work, doing it God’s way, when others would give up and say it’s hopeless.

3. You will have peace from an unexpected place. See Micah 5:1-5; Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 2:14.

Because of this unexpected King born in an unexpected village, dying an unexpected death, and most unexpectedly being raised from the dead, we have an unexpected peace with God. And that unexpected peace, which indicates we are right with God, causes us to hope for a better future when King Jesus returns. And the fact that God has always done things in an unexpected way, not using the wisdom of men but His own, superior wisdom, means that even when we don’t see a way out, we still hope. So maybe, when things don’t look like we would like or as we expect, we should have the most hope.

Conclusion

We can suffer and persevere, we can labor and not grow weary, we can encourage and push one another forward, we can comfort each other, and we can abound in God's work because we've got our hopes up for restoration.