

The Mountain of the Lord

Micah 4: 1-5

"¹ In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. ² People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. ³ The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. ⁴ Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise! ⁵ Though the nations around us follow their idols, we will follow the Lord our God forever and ever."

Did you know that Satan has been attempting to misguide us as a people? Causing many to go to extremes, such as "We have no choice and thus we are helpless, to an opposite extreme, there is a plan and thus we become careless and just have to allow it to take place. We need to know that God is alive, and He has made plans for this world which includes our lives. He has integrated our choices and lives into His plan. Each and every one of us are accountable for our choices, whether they are good or bad. Whatever choice we may make we are all called to live by God's Word, which is to be the foundation of the choices we make. His Word is just as real and applicable to us right now, as it was when He gave it to His people many years ago. Maybe even more so. Living by His Word is our individual choice and even causes some to pray for the end to come quickly.

Have you noticed that there are some who speak about the "***last Days***" coming in our world. There are many people within His church, who are longing for that day to come. The day when it will all be over. One of the questions I have been asked time and time again is, "***Are we living in the last days?***"

Well, the obvious answer to that question is simple, each day we are live, we come that much closer to the day when Christ will return. Keep in mind, we don't know when the Lord will call us to go home, or, when that day and hour will arrive.

Illustration:

A new student was registering for his new school. The registrar asked the boy, "What is your date of birth?" The boy said, "July 5th." The registrar asked: "What year?" The boy answered, "Every year."

Are some of us so naive that we do not understand that the Lord is coming back, and each of us will stand before Him one day? So, are we ready? Are our loved ones ready?

Lowell Lundstrom once wrote:

"I believe that Christians who are getting alarmed about the mark of the beast and the Anti-Christ should concentrate their efforts on helping others find the living Christ.

(he continues on with)

*I've been with many Christians who sat in their living rooms speculating about the Anti-Christ. Some thought he was Caesar, the Pope, Hitler, Mussolini, perhaps even Henry Kissinger, or Anwar Sadat. A number of others. In truth, they should have been spending their time praying for a spiritual awakening, or, sharing the truth of God's Word. The Bible says that in the last days, people will be **spiritually shallow, having ears that like to be tickled, ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth.**"*

Do we hear what he is saying? Many people will, and are **"spiritually shallow,"** to the point that they only listening to what they want to hear. That is part of **"tickling the ears."** Of hearing what was said, but **"never coming to the knowledge of the truth."** Hearing but never growing or maturing as they need to, and should be. Do we know anyone who fits this description?

Paul said in II Timothy, (Listen closely to what Paul is saying and see if it fits)

*"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--**having a form of godliness, but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them.*

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth." 2TI 3:1 -7

What stood out to me was **"having a form of Godliness, but denying it's power..."** Then he said, **"always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth."** They think they hear what is being said, yet, they never seem to apply it to their own lives. In the Last Days, what many call the **"End Times,"** people will fall apart, especially for those who do not truly know the Lord as their God and Savior.

In this chapter of Micah, we are examining scripture which immediately follows the fall of the Jewish nation. At this point in time, **The Jewish church has fallen, and upon that event, the Christian Church was built.** Everything good that the Jewish nation was struggling to find, is what the Lord built the Christian Church upon.

As we look at God's church today, there is an increasing number of people who are concerned about the strength, vitality, and righteousness of His church. There are some who are so overwhelmed, after thousands of years of persecution, that now His church will suddenly be overrun by the wickedness of the world. Let me help settle your hearts and minds, **God's church will never be overrun by Satan or his evil.**

These first five verses of Micah, chapter 4, are for all of God's children. They are words to remind and help us realize the strength of its foundation, which is, **JESUS CHRIST.**

If you know someone who is not here today, who is not sitting in God's house somewhere else, then we should be working to get them into a relationship with Jesus, so they will discover a desire to worship Him. To know Him personally, intimately and allow His love to guide them.

Micah begins with a powerful statement:

First – The Lord's House will be Highest of them all

"¹ In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. (I know that some will say, "where are they?")

The truth is, that many more are seeking God than ever before, yet they do not know what or who they are seeking for. The very first statement made here, is that Christ's church, ***"the mountain of the Lord,"*** will be known as ***the greatest, most powerful and needed place on earth. Not Disneyland, God's house!***

In the last days - mind you – the Lord and His church will be known as ***"Chief among the Mountains... It will rise above the hills, the mess, and people will stream to it..."***

It states in the previous passages, though Zion may have been ***"ploughed as a field,"*** meaning that the Jewish Church, with all of its struggle to find their Savior, fell apart. However, the church built on Jesus, will be as a mountain that rises vastly above all other mountains in this world. From the failure of the Jews, Salvation was brought to the Gentiles. Meaning you, me and all who accept Jesus as Lord. That power is here and real today! People needed the Lord!

Paul said to the Romans, when speaking of this event, ***"Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"*** ROM 11:11 – 12

There is still hope for those who may have rejected Him in the beginning. God's church is not doomed, no matter what it may appear like to those who dwell and live in this world. No matter how difficult it may seem. ***Our God is ALIVE and so is His church!*** The existence of evil, which often looks like it has an upper hand, is allowed by God's power so that His great and might plan of salvation will be known to man.

Illustration:

Living on Emmet LN, out our back door, you could see Mt. Rainer. It's peak soars above all other peaks in that area, and usually was capped with snow. It was awe inspiring to look at, especially to wake up in the morning and see its summit lifted high in the air. Sometimes it would appear as if it rose into the clouds, as if it's was a place of meditation for God Himself.

When I read this passage, it caused me to think of Mt. Rainier, sitting there, mighty, silent, majestic and all powerful. It reminded me that our God is waiting for His people, His church, to come to Him, seeking His face. NOW, is that time, now is the day of salvation!

In verse 1 Micah spoke of the people streaming to God. This brings me to my second point,

Second - Peace found in Him

“Come let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. Nations will not take up sword against nations, nor will they train for war anymore.”

I believe He is saying, ***“Men should learn to live with other men, not get his nose or life out of joint, because we don’t always agree.”*** It appears that getting along is not something we do easily, or naturally. I believe it only happens when there is a common element, or fiber, running throughout mankind. This is what the Prophet Micah was trying to tell us. ***“Come let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.”*** The Lord wants to teach us how to get along, live in peace, how to live together.

For many years now our nation has been trying to dump God, so we can do our own thing, live by our own standards and rules. How has that been working? It hasn’t worked, It just doesn’t work. All we have to do is stop for one moment and look at the world. Nations which have tried this, have fallen apart. Some have even dissolved. They are all but gone, and we, the supposed only ***“godly nation”*** in the world, have been given the responsibility to pull the rest of the world together. Like it or not! It is our task, our God given task, to spread the NEWS of Christ. The only answer for the healing this world needs.

How on earth can we do that, until we pull ourselves together, or, more importantly, until we get back to where we belong in Christ, and He pulls us together... Micah said it, ***“You go to Him, God, and He will teach us His ways, so that we might walk in His paths.”*** There is the answer. Simple - isn’t it?

Illustration:

--Charles Swindoll in his book on David: A Man of Passion and Destiny Christianity, says, ***“When was the last time you thanked the Lord for not showing you the future? I'm convinced that one of the best things God does for us is to keep us from knowing what will happen beyond today. Just think of all the stuff you didn't have to worry about just because you never knew it was coming your way!”***

That is the peace God has for us. He worries about our tomorrows, for only He knows what they hold. Go to Him, seek and follow Him, He will teach us His ways, and that is where true peace is found. In HIM!

Third - Secure in God

Isn't it wonderful to think that we might simply sit under a tree, and take in the joy of that day. I'm not suggesting, nor is Micah, that we all quit our jobs, leave our careers, and walk away from our life long pursuits. What Micah is telling us speaks of the security of trusting in Jesus.

Swindoll says, ***"Nothing happens to God's people, which hasn't already gone through the Lord's hands first!"*** That is why I have quoted this so many times!

Let me repeat that: ***"Nothing happens to God's people, which hasn't already gone through the Lord's hands first!"***

Micah says,

⁴ Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise! ⁵ Though the nations around us follow their idols, we will follow the Lord our God forever and ever."

Please allow me to Paraphrase:

"Every man will sit under his own vine, and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever." There we will discover His peace and grace at work in our lives. What a joy, wonderful joy that will be. To find a place where we can sit, meditate and bask in the love of God. TRUSTING HIM!

We are being told that this place is for all who want it. It is not contingent upon everything in the world being great or perfect, it is contingent upon our seeking Him and His teaching, as we live by it. BY our allowing God to control our hearts, mind and souls, so that He can mold and shape us from the inside out.

Micah even warned us of another danger we tend to fall into at times. It involves the statement that – ***"Christianity is just another religion of this world."*** Placing Christianity in the same group with other religious beliefs, diminishes the power of God.

There is no other belief such as Christianity! So we should not allow ourselves to be sucked into the culture of that thought, or, the thought that states that all roads lead to Rome. Remember, ***"When we take the wrong road, or go in the wrong direction, we will end up at the wrong destination!"*** ***"ONLY, as we follow the Lord, will we end up where we want and need to be."***

Micah said another way,

"All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever."

Jesus told us clearly,

"I am the way, the truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father, except through Me."

John 14:6

Jeremiah wrote,

“O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good. Do men make their own gods? Yes, but they are not gods!” “Therefore, I will teach them--this time I will teach them my power and might. Then they will know that my name is the LORD.” JER 16:19-21

What he is saying is: ***Many of our forefathers were fooled into thinking they were worshiping the One true God, yet, many of them did not.*** One of the things our Lord wishes to teach us, concerning the path we walk, is that **He is Lord!** Micah reminds us of the strength, and security, found only in Jesus Christ, which belong to those who live in obedience to Him.

I heard someone say once,

“It is not enough that we believe; we must believe in the right things about the right One.”

Illustration:

After World War II, the Allied armies provided food and shelter for many homeless children. They were put together in large camps where they received more than sufficient food and care.

Surprisingly, the well-fed children did not sleep well at night. They appeared to be restless and afraid. To remedy the problem, a psychologist suggested that each child should be given a slice of bread to hold at night. If they were hungry, another piece of bread would be provided but the single slice was to be held, not eaten. The results were astounding.

The children began to rest peacefully. The sensation of holding the bread gave them a sense of security and hope. They began to experience the peace that David knew when he wrote, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” To these children, that slice of bread represented life and security.

Micah alerts us to the fact that Jesus offers us the “Bread of life,” so that we all can find peace and security by placing our trust in His life, as we hold on to Him!

- Chief among the Mountains
- Peace is found in Jesus
- Security comes from placing our trust in Him daily...