

We Are For.7.World Domination
Micah 4:1-5

These past few weeks, we've declared that followers of Jesus are for: Absolute Truth, New Beginnings, Valuing the Past, Real Justice for All, Love, and Gratitude.

These are all good things – things that bring life and health and correct perspective to a world that is, more and more just spinning in aimless circles.

Christians aren't for anger and insult and hatred. Some in our world want to paint us that way, and unfortunately, in some places, Christ-followers have acted that way.

But that is not the way of Christ.

We are not for people's harm.

We are **for** people's good. We are for preserving life according to the way of the Giver of Life...but right there, you see...that is where we break with much of our world and where much of the world begins to call us names and see us as hate mongers and unsophisticated and unintelligent and intolerant and all that.

We are for good, but good only comes through God's ways, and because of that, the true Church can never be for people just doing as they please.

Of course, we all know that some, through the ages, in the name of Jesus and in the interest of evangelism or peace or love or something else...some have tried to give in, here and there, to the world's demands for ungodliness – to the world's demand to agree with them and to support them as they make ungodly choices and as they live in ways that are not God's best.

But those who remain faithful to Christ – to God's call and character of holiness – we simply cannot do that, and so the world does not believe we are for their good, because they acknowledge neither God nor His idea of good.

It's all very logical, really.

A sinful world says, "I want my way."

God says, "Your way leads to death. Follow my way instead...please...the way that leads to life."

God extends that invitation. Some in the world will listen to Him, but you know, most won't. Jesus said it Himself: **"...wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."**¹

The body of Christ and the world are on two different paths with two different goals and two different standards.

With true love and concern, Christ-followers hold out God's way and Word to the world, but we can't force them to switch paths.

So that in itself is sad – to watch the world...people we know and love...just walk on into darkness.

And, because the world hates to be told "it's wrong," or, "it shouldn't," even though we say it in genuine love and concern, the world turns on us...like it turned on Jesus.

Jesus talked about that too, didn't He? He told his disciples in Matthew 10, **"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master...If the head of the house has been called a devil, how much more the members of his household!"**²

And so there's the conflict, you see? It's unavoidable.

As we love in the face of it, and as we listen to the guidance of the Spirit in where we go and what we say and how we live, we'll win some. Some will choose to follow Christ.

¹ Matthew 7:13-14

² Matthew 10:

And some won't.

And, of course we don't know the difference ahead of time, so God calls us to love and invite, and keep on loving and inviting all.

That's simply where we are...that's the way of our broken world, and it's been like that for a long time.

The faithful among Israel knew that sort of world, only it was way worse for them, because they were still waiting for the Savior to come initially.

Even their own nation...Israel...the people who were supposed to point the world to God...even their own leaders had become corrupt.

This was exactly the situation the prophet Micah confronted as he entered Jerusalem, Judah's capitol, to bring God's word to her corrupt leaders.

And there was no part of Judah that was exempt. In the courts, in the palace...even in the Temple...all of them colluded...they all worked hand in hand to lift up themselves and to take advantage of others...all of it evil in God's eyes.

All through Micah here we get pictures of what was going on.

Judges and courts were corrupt and dishonest.³

People stole the property of others.⁴

Politicians sold themselves to the highest bidders.⁵

Even the prophets spoke, not God's word, but what the leaders wanted to hear, so they'd be thought well of and have a share in the spoils.⁶

It sounds very familiar, doesn't it?

So the Lord gives Micah words...corrections...exhortations...for all these people – the judges, prophets and rulers – and then Micah presents a bleak, barren image of Judah there in verse 12 of chapter three...because of their chasing after the wrong, Zion would become like a ploughed field, Jerusalem a ruin and the Temple mount nothing more than a forest of trees.

A desolate end...which, if it truly were the end, would be tragic.

But...thank goodness for chapter 4, because there Micah goes on to describe how, a day is coming when God's order will be set right.

The leaders of Judah brought her low, but God will raise her up again, and this time, under God's own personal management, Jerusalem will rise to heights she'd never before known.

Look there in chapter four:

"In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. 2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob."

Jerusalem will become the worship center for the world. Peoples and tribes and nations from all over will meet there to worship and learn of the Lord. So impressive, so alluring, so good and wise and beautiful it will be...the nations will unite under the banner of the Lord.

And as that happens, look at what Micah says God will do...the sort of governance God will provide:

Verse 1: ***"He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."***

³ Micah 3:1-4

⁴ Micah 2:1-2

⁵ Micah 3:9-12

⁶ Micah 3:11

God will bring a new freedom...freedom from ignorance. All will know what is truly good and what is right.

And more!

Verse 3: ***“He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.”***

God will bring freedom from injustice, since He will, Himself, be the judge. No more preferential treatment. No more backroom deals. No more unknown or unrecognized details that confuse judgment. The One who knows all and sees all will judge all.

On in verse 3...in response to this, the people, then, ***“will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”***

In God’s world, there will be true freedom from war.

You see, in a broken world, war is averted through balance of power.

But in God’s redeemed world, all will know the truth...God’s truth. There will be nothing left to disagree about...nothing to argue about. When God’s wisdom is known, people will receive it, and so they’ll seek and pursue peace.

Next, Micah says there will be freedom from want. Verse 4 there, ***“Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree.”***

How many resources of our world go into fighting with each other in one way or another? Think of the amount of money, effort, education, experimentation and research that go into winning the fights that arise between peoples and nations. What’s happening right now in Ukraine is a great example of this.

In the day of the Lord, though, all those resources are freed up to pursue truly good things, which allows a prosperity unlike the world has ever seen. All will have plenty and be free from want.

And then, finally...in the day of the Lord, there will be freedom from fear.

Again in verse 4, ***“and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.”***

The peace of the nations, you see?

This is the great day of reversal. The reversal of Babel – when the world’s nations were broken apart.

It’s such a powerful image, we see it also in Isaiah 2:2-4.

We get hints of it under Solomon’s reign – 1 Kings 4:25.

We get a vision of this in Isaiah 36.

We see it described in Revelation 21.

John, in His vision, heard the voice from the throne saying, ***“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’”***

And the one seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it, but nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful; only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

The world reunited and brought under God’s complete authority...under His control and blessing.

This is the day the Lord assumes His rightful place as King.

This is the day of peace...the pursuit of life without antagonistic interruption...life without ignorance, injustice, war, want, or fear.

This all happens when Jesus returns...when all in Christ experience, you might say, instead of one nation, "one world, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

A world dominated by God and His life and love and power...a world led and governed by Christ Himself.

That is what's to come. That is the great promise and hope of those in Jesus.

It's the consummate victory of God - nothing less than world domination. In God's way and time.

We are absolutely for that. We can't wait for that to happen.

That's why we join John, in Revelation, in saying, ***"Oh yes...come, Lord Jesus! Come and take hold of every part of us...and of your world...and make things right once again, for our good and for your glory."***