

October 18th Sunday 2015

Text: Micah 5:3-5a

Topic: Jesus will provide safety for his flock

The Messiah will... shepherd His flock, something the nation's leaders in Micah's day were refusing to do. Christ's caring, guiding, and protecting role will be accomplished by the Lord's strength and for His sake. As He shepherds the nation they will have peace and security (cf. Zech 14:11) because His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. Since He will rule over the entire world, all will know of His sovereign power, which will guarantee Israel's safety. This King will reign to the ends of the earth and will bring peace to all nations. Today, of course, Christ gives peace to all who will come to Him by faith, "not as the world giveth" (Jn. 14:27). "And they shall abide." To abide is to continue, to endure, to be able to withstand any foe, and to go forth against it. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and the great Ruler of his people. Time is coming when his people will defeat the devil and live in an everlasting peace. Their relationship would be like a family relationship. He will care for His people and give them security. v: 4. However, this promise of Security applies to the true believers who are members of the God's family. Such people no longer live according to the world's pattern.

Lesson: Nobody can steal God's people from his hands (from his care). (John 10:28.)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant the faith to walk and live in you forever, Amen.

October 19th Monday 2015

Text: Micah 5:5b-6

Topic: The Ruler will destroy Christians' enemies

When the enemy attacks in the last days, God will raise up leaders to face the enemy, just as He had raised up the judges and heroes like David. But Micah makes it clear that God is the Deliverer who will enable Israel to defeat her enemies and rule over their lands. Throughout history, God sometimes allow his children to undergo hardship, but when they realized their sins and turn back to him, he delivers them by giving them victory over their enemies. Sometimes he allows their enemies to pursue them just as Pharaoh and his men did. Moses had to assure them of the Lord's deliverance when he says, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." (Ex 14:13-14). The enemies you see today, the boko harams that are terrorizing the Church today, a day of the Lord is coming when you will never see them again. All we need is faith, "be still" and trust God that he will surely fight our enemies on our behalf.

Lesson: "Not by might and not by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord."

Prayer: My Lord and my Saviour, strengthens my faith, Amen.

October 20th Tuesday 2015

Text: Micah 5:7-9

Topic: The Remnants will overcome

Though small in number the Jewish remnant of the last days will experience great help from the Lord as they face their enemies. Micah used two similes to illustrate this blessing: the refreshing dew from heaven and the conquering strength of the lion. God will enable His people to overcome like lions and then bring fruitfulness to the world like the dew that watered Israel's crops (Ps 133:3). Israel will triumph over her enemies through the power of the Lord. "The remnant of Jacob" is the faithful few who remain loyal to God's truth and the duty of the day, whether in the times of Elijah, Uzziah, or Christ. The people of God, the Church of Christ dispersed among the "peoples" of the earth, have a twofold aspect - **gentleness** and **terribleness**. This twofold aspect is seen in Christ who is both a "Lamb" and a "Lion;" and therefore in his people who are called into fellowship with himself. They will be refreshing and influential (like dew and showers) among many peoples. They will also be like a lion, a ferocious lion, domineering over other animals; they will be dominant and powerful over other nations of the world just as he promised in Deut 28:13 "The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom." (NIV). If we Christians pay attention to the word of God and follow them carefully, we will always be at the top.

Lesson: God said He will lift up Christians over her enemies, and that all her foes will be destroyed.

Prayer: May your will be done in my life, Amen.

October 21st Wednesday 2015

Text: Micah 5: 10-15

Topic: God will prepare his people for the Coming Kingdom

In the last days, Israel will return to her land in unbelief and practice sins they copied from the nations which God will take revenge. But God will purge the land and prepare them for a new life in the kingdom. They will see their Messiah, trust Him, and be saved. God will destroy all their military defenses, the things that they trusted, instead of trusting the Lord. He will end their traffic with demonic powers and eliminate all idolatry from the land. Israel will now seek to please God and obey His law and not imitate the sins of the nations on which God will "take vengeance." The Church will never be safe until she is stripped of all creature-trusts, and rests on God alone" (Calvin). When we depend on our horses, chariot, guns, wealth, intellect, we will perish and our enemies will triumph over us, but when we depend on God we will overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit who enable us to do "all things." Just as the Israelites look for God to gather the remnants in Jerusalem once more, Christians today look for Jesus to return to gather His people to Himself (1Thess. 4:13-18) and then establish His righteous kingdom. Peter assures us that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night"; and then, in light of this fact, he asks, "Therefore... what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (2 Peter 3:10,11 NKJV) Future hope ought to produce present holiness. Let us pray earnestly for that blessed time to come, and meantime, as "the Israel of God," keep ourselves from idols of every kind, and trust in the Lord alone. Are we ready for His return?

Lesson: "Some trust in Chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Ps. 20:7).

Prayer: Lord, help me to trust and depend on you for everything, Amen.

October 22nd Thursday 2015

Text: Micah 6:1-2

Topic: The Lord's case against his people

In this section, there is a change in the subject that Micah is writing about. He leaves the message about the future (which was in chapters 4-5) and returns to Israel's present troubles. The Lord through Micah opened the proceedings by telling His side of the controversy, emphasizing the gracious way He had dealt with the nation from the very beginning. He redeemed them from Egyptian slavery; He gave them leaders who guided them through the wilderness with His help; and He brought them to their promised inheritance. And throughout this journey, the Lord had put up with their unbelief, disobedience, and repeated complaints. Micah, as God's advocate, summons this people into judgment, and makes an appeal to inanimate creation against them. He had spoken to the priests, to the princes, to the people. He had done everything that was necessary to make them wise, and holy, and happy; they had uniformly disobeyed, and were ever ungrateful. Their ingratitude and rebellion are sufficient to make the mountains, the hills, and the strong foundations of the earth to hear, tremble, and give judgment against them. It's good for God's people to know the past and remember with gratitude that entire God had done for them. The Earth and everything in it belong to him. The things that he has created are his witnesses. They always do what God orders them to do. The presence of these natures around us indicates the presence of God. Therefore, wherever we go whatever we do or say they will stand as witness against us on the day of the Lord. At least if you will not hear the rebuke of man, hear now at last the word of God.

Lesson: Remember the grace of God upon your life.

Prayer: Prepare me, dear Lord, that your word will have a place in me, in Jesus' name, Amen.

October 23rd Friday 2015

Text: Micah 6:3-5

Topic: Why Can't we obey God?

What a question to be put by a merciful God and a redeeming Saviour, to any one of us -- "My people, what have I done to you? He also asked the people to answer Him by naming some ways in which He had burdened (lit., "wearied") them. God reminded them of His goodness in leading them out of Egypt into the Promised Land. The prophets often reminded the people of their deliverance from Egyptian slavery. The Exodus was a great focal event in the life of Israel because by it God had delivered them from foreign domination and also because it was followed by the Lord's giving the Law to them through Moses. In v.5, he reminded of Balak and Balaam. On three occasions, Balak, king of Moab, commanded Balaam to curse Israel, but God turned the curse into blessing (Deut 23:5). The Israelites didn't even know that this spiritual battle was going on; yet God protected His people. What did the Jews do in return? They became friendly with the Moabites, attended their idolatrous religious rites, and

committed fornication with their women! (Num 25). What Balaam couldn't do by means of his curses, the Jews themselves did with their sinful lusts. The phrase "from Shittim unto Gilgal" (6:5) reminded the people of Israel's crossing of the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land. The same God who opened and closed the Red Sea also opened and closed the Jordan River so His people might claim their inheritance. He did for them what they couldn't do for themselves, but they didn't remember. If not for God, our enemies could have consumed us long before now. God have been exceedingly patient with us. Then why can't we obey him.

Lesson: If this question is channeled to you, what will be your respond?

Prayer: Oh God, open our eyes to see what you are doing on our behalf on daily basis, amen.

October 24th Saturday 2015

Text: Micah 6:6-8

Topic: What does the Lord require of you?

These verses mention many gifts that a person might offer to God. "Shall I come before him with *burnt offerings*, with *calves* a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with *thousands of rams*, with *ten thousand rivers of oil*? Shall I offer my *firstborn* for my transgression, the *fruit of my body* for the sin of my soul?" All these are gifts that a person can offer unto the Lord but can they remove his sins. Suppose that a wealthy person or a king is praying to God, but comes to God with a wrong attitude, do you think God will accept his gifts? Do you think you can please God by offering your wealth to him? Can you pay or bribe God to remove your sins? Many times rich people think that such gifts will please God. What then shall we offer God, and what does he requires of us? The answer is simple, "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly." This is how God's covenant requires people to live: 1) You must do to your neighbour (to other people) what is fair and right. 2) You must love kindness. Some people are weaker than you are. Some people are poorer than you are. You should be kind to them. You should help them. You should do that because you want to do it. You should be happy to do it. 3) You must walk (live) humbly with your God. We should agree to what God wants. And we should do what God wants us to do. Only when we walk humbly with our God can we practice the first two things. Let us tell God that we are sorry and seek for forgiveness.

Lesson: It does not mean that sincere religious activity is wrong. But it does mean that moral behaviour is more important than the rules and traditions of religion.

Prayer: Help me to do what is right and be kind to my neighbours.