

# What the Lord Requires of You

“Love Mercy (Part 1): Bethlehem, Armageddon, and the King”  
 Micah 4:9-5:15 – March 1, 2026

## Our Sermon Series

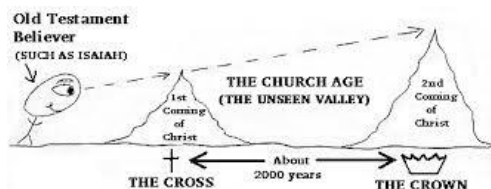
WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU		
A Study of the Book of Micah		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Feb 15	DO JUSTICE (Part 1): <i>The Lord is Coming to Judge</i>	Micah 1:1-2:13
Feb 22	DO JUSTICE (Part 2): <i>Hitched and Hijacked</i>	Micah 3:1-4:8
Mar 1	LOVE MERCY (Part 1): <i>Bethlehem, Armageddon, and the King</i>	Micah 4:9-5:15
Mar 8	WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD: <i>I Will Look to the Lord</i>	Micah 6:1-7:10
Mar 15	LOVE MERCY (Part 2): <i>When God Casts Your Sins into the Sea</i>	Micah 7:11-20

## Sequence of Events

- 740-700 BC – Micah’s prophecies
- 722 BC – Assyria conquers Israel (North) and takes into exile
- 586 BC – Babylon conquers Judah (South) and takes into exile
- 538-457 BC – Remnant of Israel returns to the Promised Land under Zerubbabel and Ezra
- 4 BC – 29 AD – Messiah’s First Coming (Jesus Christ)
- Future unknown date – 7-year Tribulation
- Future unknown date – The Battle of Armageddon
- Future unknown date – Messiah’s Second Coming
- The Millennium Kingdom – Messiah’s 1000-Year Reign on Earth

## The First and Second Comings of Christ the Messiah

### What Could The Prophet See? (Larkin’s “Mountain Peaks of Prophecy”)



## Thought Flow of Micah 4:9-5:15

4:9 - Why do you cry, daughter of Jerusalem, as though you do not have a King (the Lord King described in 4:1-8)?  
 4:10 - Yes, you will go into exile in Babylon (so groan like a woman in labor), but the Lord will redeem and rescue you.  
 4:11-13 - Nations will gather against Israel, but the nations do not know that this is God’s plan - to gather the nations against Israel and to defeat them (Armageddon).

5:1 - Babylon is coming soon to lay siege to Israel, and Israel’s current earthly king will be humiliated.

5:2 - But this King (that I told you about in 4:1-9) will be born Messiah in Bethlehem. He is eternal. He is humble (Ephrathah is ancient name for Bethlehem).

5:3 - Israel shall suffer until this Messiah comes. When Messiah comes, a remnant will be restored.

5:4-5a - This Messiah shall shepherd Israel. They shall be secure. He will be great to the ends of the earth (Great Commission). Messiah will be their peace.

5:5-6 - Under Messiah Israel will be delivered from future “Assyrian” threats by abundant leadership (7-8 leaders).

5:7-15 - In that day a remnant will be delivered that will be free of idolatry and witchcraft. And will be free from all enemies because Israel will be like the lion - king of the jungle. The nations will be judged.

## A Perspective Change That Will Empower You to Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly With Your God

### 1. Suffer well because although you are experiencing discipline, \_\_\_\_\_ through the Messiah (Micah 4:9-10; 5:1-5)

- Micah was telling Judah that she will experience discipline through Babylon’s invasion, but that God is doing this because He loves her. He is still on the Throne. And He has a plan. And that plan includes sending a Messiah.
- Five highlights of this Messiah:
  - (1) He will redeem and rescue you (4:10).
  - (2) He will be born in Bethlehem (5:2)
  - (3) He will shepherd you (5:4)
  - (4) He will be your peace (5:5)
  - (5) He is your King (4:9)
- Application #1 – Which aspect of the Messiah’s deliverance do you most need in your life right now?
  - Redemption and rescue
  - Proof of the truthfulness of God’s Word
  - Shepherding, guiding, caring
  - Peace
  - Surrender to His Kingship and Lordship.
- Michael Houdmann: “In the Bible, redemption is the act of God buying back or rescuing humanity from the bondage of sin, death, and spiritual decay through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ restoring those who have faith to a right relationship with God.”
- 8 prophetic predictions made 100s of years before Jesus

<b>Prediction about Messiah</b>	<b>Fulfillment in Jesus</b>
Place of birth – Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6
Virgin birth – Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Betrayed for 30 silver piece – Zech 11:12-13	Matthew 26:15; 27:3,7
Nailed to cross – Psalm 22:16	John 19:18; 20:25
Gambled for his clothes – Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35
No broken bones – Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
Gall/vinegar given to Him – Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Forsaken by God – Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46

- The statistical chances of any one person fulfilling 8 different prophecies all at once are 1 out of 100 quadrillion (10<sup>17</sup>)
- The actual number of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus = 333
- Philip Brooks: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

## 2. Suffer well because although it looks like evil is winning right now, there is coming a Day when God will \_\_\_\_\_ all evil and you will be \_\_\_\_\_ from all evil (Micah 4:11-13; 5:5-15)

- In Scripture, whenever you see God “gathering the nations,” the Bible is referring to Armageddon (Isaiah 34; Joel 3:2-15; Micah 4:11-5:15; Zechariah 14:1-5; Zephaniah 3:8; Revelation 19:11-21).
- Evil nations will gather against Israel, but the nations do not know that this is God’s plan. God has announced that a Day is coming when the nations will gather against Jerusalem in a battle called Armageddon. God’s people will win this battle as Christ returns and sets up His 1000-Year Kingdom where there will be no more idolatry or witchcraft or enemies or evil.
- Question: Why doesn’t God judge evil right now?
- Answer: Because the moment God judges evil, time is up! The moment God judges evil, the opportunity for salvation goes away. So, out of His love for all those whom He created, God patiently waits... giving people more time to embrace His Son and be saved.
- **2 Peter 3:9** – *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*
- **Philippians 1:29** *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake*
- **2 Corinthians 1:7-9** *Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*
- Rick Warren: “In order to keep us from becoming too attached to earth, God allows us to feel a significant amount of discontent and dissatisfaction in life – longings that will never be fulfilled on this side of

eternity. We’re not completely happy here because we’re not supposed to be! Earth is not our final home; we were created for something much better. Realizing that life on earth is just a temporary assignment should radically alter your values. Eternal values, not temporal ones, should become the deciding factors of your decisions. You will not be in heaven two seconds before you cry out, ‘Why did I place so much importance on things that were so temporary? What was I thinking? Why did I waste so much time, energy, and concern on what wasn’t going to last?’”

- **Application #2** – Today, I choose to let my pain remind me that this world is not my home. And, today, I choose to let the pain of this world spur me on to share the love of Christ with others so that they might be saved. Specifically, I’m going to...
  - Develop a “Top Ten List” and pray over it daily for the salvation and discipleship of the ten people I most want to see come to Jesus. “Talk to God about people before you talk to people about God.”
  - Build deeper and deeper relationships with my Top Ten and show them the love of Christ. “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”
  - As God’s Spirit leads, share my faith verbally with my Top Ten.
  - Disciple my Top Ten.
  - Engage in tangible acts of justice, mercy, and humbleness.