

The Gospel of Christmas
From Failure, Hope!

(Micah 4:9-5:9)

Why do you cry aloud-?

- Traded your KING for disloyal independence (3:1-4)
- Traded truth for tolerance of everything but truth (2:6-9,11 ; 3:5-7,9-11)
- Traded freedom for turmoil – > exile (6:9-16)
- Traded peace for war (5:10-15)

Sometimes the only way to wake us up is to allow the enemy to sweep over us –

Disloyalty will always attract the discipline of God- t hat discipline will correspond to our sinfulness (2:1-5, 9-10 3:4)

Often our ceremoni al “sacrifice” is a cheap cover- up for our lack of obedience (3:11, 6:6-7) .

The reason God desires obedience over sacrifice is because sacrifice is easier – you set the sacrifice, God establishes the obedience .

Raging nations around us pulling us into turmoi l should be viewed as a divine message of disapproval toward the W est – pushing God to the margins for our own independence and “prosperity” may in fact cost us our treasured standard of living.

En ter the faithful prophet (teacher) [1:8; 2:6-11]

You could be rescued; you could be redeemed; you can be restored !

• Enjoying victory over enemies will not be in trading st rength for strength or false gods for false go ds (5:10-15) .

• God does respond to repentance, but he doesn’t shrug off rebellion; you may have to go through a period of consequential exile and be rescued from there (4:10-13) .

Micah and the Glorious Gospel of Chr i stmas (5:1-5)

1. Promised, O ne who reverses desperate situations (5:1-2; Matt 2:1-6; John 7:42)

From a strike on the cheek to living securely.

2. From a very small town , God can do very great things (5:2; 1 Cor . 1: 29-31)

God c hooses something small and quiet so the whole expla nation and glory is clearer c ut .

3. When God promises something, it counts (2 Sam 7:12-16; Rom 15:8; 2 Cor . 1:20)

If in Jesus, all God’s promises are yes to you.

4. From precarious to complete protection and dominion (5:3-5)

- A shepherding government
- In the strength of the Lord
- Past the promised land to the end s of the earth (Acts 1:8)

5. From constant t urmo il to c ontinual peace (5:5; 4:3)

“Joy to the World”

6. Not just the absence of war , but the promise of the forever presence of God when Christmas visit ed the C ross (7:18-

19)

The greatest work is freeing every trusting heart from sin, shame, and judgement

- Trampling iniquities under foot
- Casting all our sins into the depths of the sea

When your unb elief is removed , so is your shame ;
w hen your sin is removed , so is His wrath.

Do not gloat over me, my enemy!
Though I have fallen, I will rise.
Though I sit in darkness ,
the Lord will be my light.

Because I have sinned against him ,
I will bear the Lord 's wrath,
until he pleads my case
and upholds my cause.
He will bring me out into the light ;
I will see his righteousness.

Micah 7:8 ,9

How do I know all of this is true? Because Jesus Messiah was born, lived, died for our sins, and rose again.