

## Advent 2020 – Micah

### Hope

#### Micah 2.12-13

Context: judgment in 8<sup>th</sup> century upon Israel – prophecy given to Judah as a warning, to let them see the judgment before they have to experience it

- God's people put their trust in kings / rulers and enjoyed the power that came as a result
- Anyone who said differently was ostracized, anyone who couldn't help them with their addiction to power was oppressed

Where do we find hope in the middle of something like 2020 (or 8<sup>th</sup> century Israel)?

**We are not in this alone** – He gathers us (v.12)

- Based on identity – not behavior
  - It's His faithfulness we're counting on, not our own – He seems to preserve a remnant (it's never too late)
  - Judgment most often in the Bible is God giving us what we want (and sometimes accelerating it so the evil doesn't continue for generations)
- If He gathers us, then He knows where you are right now and He knows what's going on and He knows where He wants to bring you – that is hope
- Gathering place is the pen – God is bringing us together to protect us
  - Psalm 23 – rod and staff
  - John 17 – protect them from the world, witness
- There are enough like-minded people to cause a ruckus – FLASH MOB
  - One of the great struggles of 2020 – loneliness is magnified and dysfunction is aggravated
  - We saw the need for gathering and its positive effect on our faith – but some gathered to gripe instead of grow
  - There are lots of voices and struggles – many will lead astray (v.11)

**We are not on our own** – He leads us (v.13)

- He makes a way
  - John 1.14 – His way is the way of grace *and* truth
  - John 10 – lays down life for sheep
- He leads the way
  - We get to experience what He has accomplished – obviously not in the same way or for the same reasons, but still ours to experience
  - This freedom can be genuinely ours – we can “go out by it” to genuine freedom
  - The King – the I AM – is the one in front, like the pillar of fire and the cloud

- He is not asking them to go somewhere that He is not already at work
- What God is promising us is not ease and not a ruler, leader, politician, system, economy, education or anything else that brings our hope – He is personally involved

When we hope in God, it's because there is a Messiah – one who comes among us, gathers to protect us, gives His life for us, and leads us to freedom