

Who is Like the Lord? The King's Royal Subjects

Intro: Did you know that the Bible speaks about you in prophecy? Let me show you how.

In our study last week we saw that Micah gives us a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He shows us how that He would be born in the city of David, Bethlehem and like his predecessor He would shepherd God's people, protect them from their enemies, and give them peace. But Micah ends the prophecy by speaking about the King's royal subjects; and thus we have a description of the Lord's new covenant people. Let's consider Micah's portrait of the future people of God.

The King's royal subjects will have a refreshing influence all over the world.

Then the remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples like dew from the Lord, like showers on vegetation which do not wait for man or delay for the sons of men. (Micah 5:7)

The "remnant of Jacob" refers to those who through faith in God had survived the captivity and had returned to the Christ (cf. 5:3). It is a picture of the church, the new Israel of God.

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. (Galatians 6:15-16)

Notice that they will be "among many peoples". Thus the people of the Messiah will not be physically located in Palestine but all over the world, exercising their influence there..

Just as "dew from the Lord" and "showers on vegetation" provide what is needed for the plants to live, grow and produce food, so God's people will be a source of life for others, providing a refreshing spiritual influence.

Sometimes we may forget how much God depends upon us to bring blessing to this world.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. (Matthew 5:13)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14)

Are we bringing that refreshing presence to the people around us? Can they depend upon us for a word from God to direct them or to encourage them?

And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46-47)

And the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, among many peoples like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which, if he passes through, tramples down and tears, and there is none to rescue. Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, and all your enemies will be cut off. (Micah 5:8-9)

The second figure used to describe God's people is starkly different from the first. If God's people have a refreshing influence in the world by their love of others, they also have a fearful influence by their commitment to the rule of God.

The lion has always been the "king of beasts" and symbolizes courage, boldness, and power. The royal subjects of Jesus are likened to the lion in these ways. They are not afraid of the enemy, but they have trust in the power of God's message.

The NT often urges God's people to live in the strength and boldness of the Lord.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11)

How do we see ourselves? I remember the Israelites of the Exodus coming to Canaan and seeing the giants there said, "*We were as grasshoppers among them!*" (Num. 13:33). But faithful Joshua and Caleb had a different view of themselves:

"Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." (Numbers 14:9)

We still need the boldness and courage that the apostles and the first century had.

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

We tend to act in keeping with the way we see ourselves or the way others make us see ourselves. Keep this mental picture in mind and live it out—like dew & showers; like lions!

The King's subjects will rely fully upon the Lord for direction and victory. Israel's undoing in the OT era came as the result of two evil and harmful tendencies.

Reliance upon military might rather than faith in the Lord

As the powers of world gathered around they became fearful and faithless and felt they must acquire the same military equipment as their enemies in order to prevail. Thus, the prophets rebuked Israel for reliance upon horses, chariots, and fortifications rather than the Lord.

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! (Isaiah 31:1)

But as Micah foresees the royal subjects of the Messiah, he sees a different attitude.

“And it will be in that day,” declares the Lord, “That I will cut off your horses from among you and destroy your chariots. I will also cut off the cities of your land and tear down all your fortifications. (Micah 5:10-11)

Israel would no longer trust in human symbols of influence and power. Instead they would trust in the Lord for deliverance. Capitulation to the pagan culture rather than faithfulness to the Lord’s word

If Israel’s first mistake was to rely upon military might, the second was the tendency to bend to the pagan culture around them.

This happened in three ways:

Instead of depending upon the guidance of God’s prophets they resorted to occult revelation for guidance. *And when they say to you, “Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter,” should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (Isaiah 8:19-20)*

Instead of worshipping God in His temple as He taught, they adopted the pagan worship practices.

The worship of the Canaanites was centered around the fertility of the land and the people. The principle gods were Baal and His consort who had various names included “Asherah”. “Asherah” was worshipped under the image of a sacred pole or pillar. Thus these objects are also called “asherah” or “asherim” and were involved in fertility rites. The Israelites participation in these pagan rites brought God’s judgment upon them.

But as Micah sees the royal subjects of the Messiah, he sees a different attitude.

“I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have fortunetellers no more. “I will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you, so that you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. “I will root out your Asherim from among you and destroy your cities. (Micah 5:12-14)

If there is any truth God’s people must remember in all ages it is the importance of depending upon the power of God’s ways and the remaining loyal to His revealed word.

When we rely upon another power to save people other than the truth of God, we reflect the same spirit as the ancient Israelites and prove ourselves not to be the royal subject of the Christ.

When we compromise God's truth on how He is to be honored and worshipped, we reflect the same spirit as the ancient Israelites and prove ourselves not to be the royal subjects of the Christ. This much God has made very clear. The thing of ultimate importance to God is obedience to His teachings!

Thus, God ends with a word of warning.

"And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations which have not obeyed." (Micah 5:15)

The King who now reigns will return again and listen to Paul's words: *For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)*

Conclusion: Hopefully we have a greater understanding of our role in this world as the royal subjects of Jesus Christ. We can and will make a difference if we remain devoted to the truth without compromise and proclaim it with boldness and courage.

As the great King looks down from heaven, he looks with genuine pleasure upon those people who truly honor Him as king of their lives. These are the royal subjects of Jesus Christ. Let us always seek to be among them!