

MINOR PROPHETS

Discussion Questions

Read Micah 4:8-5:15

As you do, look for the themes of victory and defeat that are woven together.

Where do they show up?

Micah 5:1-4 speak of a great king who will come and rescue God's people from captivity (v 3). But when they returned from captivity in Babylon, they had no king. More than 500 years later, this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus (Matthew 2:1-6). What does Jesus say He came to do in Matthew 20:25-28?

A ransom is the price paid to free someone from captivity. What was the price Jesus paid for that ransom?

How does that differ from what the people expected of the Messiah (Micah 5:5-6)?

How do the themes of defeat and victory come together in Jesus?

Those themes come up again in Micah 5:7-9. God's people will be "in the midst of many people" (in captivity). But while they are there, God will do things through them. What are the metaphors God uses of His people in these verses?

Dew and showers are symbols of refreshment, a lion is a symbol of strength, ferocity, and victory. How do these ideas reflect God's purpose for His people all the way back to the call of Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3?

God promised to protect Abraham's family from their enemies and to bless the world through them. The ultimate purpose of this is to defeat sin (Micah 7:18-20), so He allows His people to suffer in order to purify them from sin (Micah 5:10-15). How does suffering accomplish this? Take a look at 1 Peter 1:3-16 and James 1:2-4 to help answer this question.

How has God used suffering in your life to help you grow in your faith? What suffering are you going through right now? How might God be using it in your life to defeat sin? In what ways does your suffering show the world more about who Jesus is and how He suffered for us?