

MONDAY
26 APRIL
 Mark the Evangelist
Proverbs 15:28-end
or Acts 15:35-end
Psalm 119:9-16
Ephesians 4:7-16
Mark 13:5-13

TUESDAY
27 APRIL
Acts 11:19-26
Psalm 87
John 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY
28 APRIL
Acts 12:24 – 13:5
Psalm 67
John 12:44-end

THURSDAY
29 APRIL
Acts 13:13-25
Psalm 89:1-2. 20-26
John 13:16-20

FRIDAY
30 APRIL
Acts 13:26-33
Psalm 2
John 14:1-6

SATURDAY
1 MAY
Philip and James,
Apostles
Isaiah 30:15-21
Psalm 119:1-8
Ephesians 1:3-10
John 14:1-14

REFLECTION

This week's readings are framed by the feasts of St Mark and St Philip and James. The readings from Acts, though, begin to follow the ministry of another Jesus' apostles – Saul, who starts to be known as Paul in the midst of these passages. The change of name is not really explained – it may be that Paul, a Roman name, was easier to use in a missionary context than the Jewish name Saul, when he was speaking about Jesus to the Gentiles.

Why did Jesus choose Paul? Why does Jesus choose any of us? What's certain is that Jesus always knows what he's doing (see John 13:18 – "I know whom I have chosen"). The vital thing is who we are in our relationship with him: it's not ourselves, but Jesus whom we proclaim, whether we are a Mark, a Philip or James, a Saul or a Paul... a Tom, Dick or Harry.

What do you think your name brings to mind for those who know you? Is it a word of life, of love? And most importantly, does it point to Jesus, who himself lives to bring people to the Father – the heart of these verses from John's Gospel.

PRAYER

Loving God, you know us and have chosen us and call each of us by name. May our lives reflect your calling, and may the way we live always point to your Son, who is the way, the truth, and the life.



June 2020, George Floyd Protest in Minneapolis, Minnesota. awoods3 / Shutterstock.com

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

PART XXXIII – MICAH – A BOOK FOR A TIME OF TROUBLE

Georgina Byrne takes the baton and continues our book-by-book series about the Bible.

When trouble comes, how do you treat those who are poorest? This question remains pertinent to every generation and every society, and for this reason Micah is a book that bears reading over and again.

Micah was prophesying in the southern kingdom of Judah towards the end of the eighth century BC, at the same time as Amos and Hosea. His words are addressed both to the people of Judah and to the kingdom of Israel. The prophet speaks at a time when peace and relative prosperity are coming to an end. The region is increasingly unsettled by the expansion of the Assyrian Empire and the threat is coming closer: "it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem" (1:9).

Micah connects the inevitable disaster with the abandonment of justice. Having enjoyed a time of plenty, the people have forgotten how to live righteously as God's people. Instead, they "walk haughtily" (2:3), their leaders "eat the flesh" of the people (3:3) and abhor justice (3:9).

God issues a challenge to the people: "What have I done to you? In what have I wearied you?" (6:3). God has saved them, brought them out of Egypt, and given them prosperity, and yet they have taken their privilege for granted and neglected those in need.

Even amid the sharp criticism, there is hope for the world beyond the coming doom. Micah shines with a vision of the future that is both peaceful and inclusive. We read of the Lord's house being established with "many peoples" streaming to it, of turning "swords into plowshares, and... spears into pruning hooks." We read that: "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (4:1-4).

But it is the challenge to live a just life – individual and corporate – that is Micah's lasting gift to every generation: "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (6:8).

Canon Georgina Byrne is Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral and a Chaplain to The Queen.

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith



Fourth week of Easter

Monday 26 April to
 Saturday 1 May
 2021

WEEK