lem. But God also promised a beautiful future beyond the loss.

A day will come, said Micah, when God will call the peoples of the world to Himself. Violence will end. Weapons of war will become farming tools, and every person who answers God's call will find a peaceful home and a productive life in His kingdom (4:3–4).

For many in the world today, and maybe for you, a safe home remains more a dream than a reality. But we can rely on God's ancient promise of a home for people of all nations, even as we wait and work and pray for those peaceful homes to become a reality.

By: Amy Peterson

Reflect & Pray

God, thank You for the beautiful promise of a home. Please bring peace to our world, and provide for the needs of all of Your children.

God promises His children a peaceful home in His kingdom.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Promise of a Peaceful Home

Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid. Micah 4:4



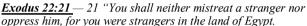
Sixty-five million. That's the number of refugees in our world today—people who have had to leave their homes due to conflict and persecution—and it's higher than it's ever been. The UN has petitioned leaders to work together in receiving refugees so that every child will get an education, every adult will find meaningful work, and every family will have a home.

The dream of making homes for refugees in crisis reminds me of a promise God made to the nation of Judah when ruthless Assyrian armies threatened their homes. The Lord commissioned the prophet Micah to warn the people that they would lose their temple and their beloved city of Jerusa-



Oppression and Persecution

Exodus 3:7-9 — 7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, ... 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.



<u>Psalm 103:6</u> 6 The Lord executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.

<u>Jeremiah 30:20</u> — 20 ... And I will punish all who oppress them.

Psalm 109.2-4

<u>Isaiah 53:7</u>—7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

<u>1 Peter 2:23</u> — 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; Psalm 109:4-5. 16. 22-25

In Psalm 109 David models two aspects of prayer for the oppressed and persecuted:

1. Prayer for , v 2-5,16, 22-25, 0-1,30-31, 21, 26-27 1 Peter 5:5-7 — 5 ... "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Romans 11:33–34 — 33 ... How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!



34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"

Isaiah 41:10 — 10 I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

<u>Isaiah 41:10</u>— 10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God.'

Psalm 72:4 — 4 He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor.



, verses 6-15, 17-20, 28-29

Deuteronomy 19:16–21 — 16 If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, 17 then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. 18 And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, 19 then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. 20 And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Acts 1:20 — 20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'

Romans 12:19—19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Ephesians 4:32 — 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 5:43-44 — 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you,



love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

<u>Luke 6:35</u> — 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.