

MICAH Lesson 07

Micah Chapter 7

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Introduction: As the book of Micah reaches its conclusion, the prophet denounces the prevalence of sin in Judah in verses 1-6. He then professes reliance upon God and His deliverance in verses 7-13. Finally, he sets forth promises and encouragement for Judah in verses 14-20.

I. Prophet Micah Denounces Sin

Mic 7:1 Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

Mic 7:2 The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Micah proclaimed his heart felt dismay upon that which was coming upon Judah. He uses an analogy of seeking fruit after harvest and finding little. He had longed for good fruit but found little. The analogy is of men. Good men were scarce throughout the region.

Good men, those honest and upright had died out for the most part and there were only a few good men left in the kingdom of Judah. The vast majority were murderers, thieves and kidnapers. It is apparent that there were none that feared God with the exception of Micah.

Mic 7:3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

Mic 7:4 The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Men used both hands skillfully in doing evil. Bribes were sought and granted by those in high places. The rich and powerful proposed their fraudulent schemes to the unjust judges and they eagerly granted them favor for a price. Whether princes, judges, or businessmen; they all were in crooked collusion.

The best of Judah and Jerusalem was like a briar—good for nothing. The day foretold by earlier prophets (i.e., watchmen) was about to arrive and there would come upon them much confusion, anxiety and uncertainty.

Mic 7:5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

Mic 7:6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

Mic 7:7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

The treachery in the nation had become so prevalent that the prophet warned his people to trust no one— not even one's wife. Family loyalties had dissolved. Sons dishonored their fathers. Daughters defied their mothers along with daughter in laws. The natural order had degenerated in Judah to the degree that one's enemies were in his own family. They were without natural affection. America as a nation patterns so much of this. Our nation needs to come back to God in repentance and faith.

Society in Judah had become completely corrupt from top to bottom to its very core, right down to the home. The home itself, the institution that God set in order and blessed was defiled to the point that it was unrecognizable and an abomination within itself. If a person couldn't rely on their own flesh and blood, who could they trust? The prophets were warned of such a day when this people would not retain God in their knowledge, but no one heeded the warnings.

In verse 7, Micah after searching, found no man repentant or no one that feared Almighty God. With nowhere else to look, he determined to look up and call unto the Lord for salvation and deliverance. Micah knew that God would hear him. He knew that only God could make right the wickedness and evil of His people.

Mic 7:8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

Mic 7:9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

Mic 7:10 Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

Micah warned the enemies of His people to rejoice not over the fall of Judah for the day was coming when the Lord would lift up His people. Though they presently were in spiritual darkness, God would be a light to them. Micah, here in verse 9 prophetically speaks on behalf of Jerusalem.

I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

They had sinned against their God and He now was about to judge them. Micah vowed to plead on behalf of his people and seek God to deal justly and mercifully with them. In due season, God would bring them forth to the light and they would behold God's righteousness.

In the day when God restores and regenerates Jerusalem and Israel, their enemies, those who scoffed and mocked them will see it and be ashamed of their opposition. With shame will the enemies of Jerusalem remember how they once taunted Israel about her God.

The day was coming when the enemies of Jerusalem would be trodden down into the mire of the streets. That is what happened to Assyria, Babylon, and many other lessor gentile nations who had been at enmity with Israel.

II. Promise of Future Building of the Walls

Mic 7:11 In the day that thy walls are to be built, in that day shall the decree be far removed.

Mic 7:12 In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

Mic 7:13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

The day was coming when the destroyed walls of Jerusalem would be rebuilt. That of course would happen when Nehemiah returned from captivity for that purpose. In that day, God's decree for judgment against Jerusalem would be lifted. The description in verse 12 seems to be more than just the return of exiled Jews in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. The prophesy seems to look to the future restoration of Israel in the Millennium as well.

In that day not only will Jews from all around the world around return to their land, but gentiles will come to Jerusalem from every corner of the earth as well. It is certain that God would restore and bless Israel, in the meantime, judgment loomed for the evil fruit of their doings (i.e., their sin).

Matthew Henry in his commentary said this about sin.

Micah 7:13

Those truly penitent for sin, will see great reason to be patient under affliction. When we complain to the Lord of the badness of the times, we ought to complain against ourselves for the badness of our hearts. We must depend upon God to work deliverance for us in due time. We must not only look to him, but look for him. In our greatest distresses, we shall see no reason to despair of salvation, if by faith we look to the Lord as the God of our salvation.

Mic 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

Mic 7:15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.

The prophet cried out to God to in due season to feed His people with His shepherd's rod. Much like the promise in Psalms 23:4.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

God's heritage which dwelt from Carmel to Bashan and Gilead was once a reality. Here it is a metaphor for Israel. Micah besought God to someday once again feed them in their extended land. God answered Micah's petition and promised that His blessings to Israel would be like the blessing He bestowed upon them when they came out of Egypt. He would safely deliver them and provide for them. In that day, God promised to do marvelous things for His people. God always keeps His word.

Mic 7:16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

Mic 7:17 They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.

In that day, other nations will see God's hand upon Israel and be astonished at their might. They will put their hand to their mouth in amazement. Their ears will be astounded at what they hear about Israel. Nations once hostile to Israel, in the day of their restoration by God, will grovel in submission. They will fear the Lord and even Israel. God will mightily exalt Israel when Christ returns.

III. No God Like True Jehovah God

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Mic 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

As Micah nears the end of his prophecy, the prophet cried out in praise to God, asking who was like unto Him who pardoned iniquity and passed over the sin of His people. Clearly, God does not retain His anger for eternity. The reason is that He delights in mercy. Indeed, the mercy of God will be evident in the future restoration and conversion of Israel.

Micah foretold that the day was coming when God would turn from His wrath and have compassion on His people. The day was coming when God would overcome their iniquities and cast them all into the depths of the sea. The casting of their iniquity into the depths of the sea is clearly a metaphor of their sin being removed forever. As in Psalm 103:12, where God promised to remove our sins as far as the east is from the west. The thought is how that our sin is forever and permanently removed.

Psa 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

That payment took place when Christ died for our sin on the cross. When justified by His grace, our sin penalty is removed permanently. That God did in time. Jesus willingly departed heaven, took upon himself flesh as man. He lived and was in all points tempted as any man, yet He never sinned, not once. He who was without sin gave His life over to the hands of wicked men and died on the cross at Calvary bearing the weight of the sins of the world. He offered His blood on the mercy seat in the temple not built by human hands.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of God the Father and intercedes as the High Priest for those who by God's grace thru faith believe His record (the gospel) and calls on the Lord. The prophets of old completed the record of His coming long before he was born into this world. This makes it certain that He knew the price that had to be paid. He knew what He would suffer and bleed and die for, sinners.

We that believe this record and have called upon the Lord, though we be sinful, we may seek forgiveness. We know when we are without repentance, we lack fellowship with God and His chastisement may fall upon us. We also know that which we sow, we are assured by His word we will reap. No one can stay the reaping of what they have sown.

Though we may be sinful, we have come to hate our sin because we are able to see it as God does. We have yet to receive the glorified body, but one day we will receive it, Until then, we must draw nigh to our Lord turning away from and confessing our sins, not for redemption for we are His but that we might be found faithful and pleasing to our Lord both now and at His appearing. We are to be found watching for His return and praying for Him to come back for us. Why? Because He is coming for us. He said He would.

Mic 7:20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Micah concludes his prophecy by confirming that God will perform the truth described to Jacob (i.e., Israel). That is the mercy which God had promised to and through Abraham will be performed as God has promised it. That promise is directly promised to Israel and by extension to the greater seed of Abraham—those gentiles found to be in Christ. Thus ends the prophecy of Micah.

John Gill concluded the book of Micah with these comments.

Micah 7:20

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob,. That is, the promise made to Jacob, the Lord would faithfully perform and make good to his posterity, natural and spiritual, especially to those who are Israelites indeed;

and the mercy to Abraham; the gracious promises made to him, which sprung from mere grace and mercy; all respecting his natural and spiritual seed; and especially the promise of the coming of the Messiah, that seed of his in which all nations of the earth were to be blessed; and which is the eminent instance of the mercy and grace of God to Jews and Gentiles, that walk in the steps of Abraham; see Luk1:68;

which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old; or the promises both of multiplying the seed of Abraham, and of giving them the land of Canaan, and of the Messiah springing from them, were confirmed by an oath, Gen 22:16.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be

blessed.