

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 5 Micah

Chapter 7 Pardoning all iniquity because of who God is and what He does

In his final chapter Micah has become depressed and distressed at the state of his people who have plainly disregarded the messages he has received from God.

Read Micah 7: 1-4 An honest confession of their sinful state.

V 1-4 The Prophet Micah now confesses the sin of God's people.

Read Matthew 21: 18-19 Jesus expresses God's sentiment both in His weeping over Jerusalem and in His cursing of the fig tree.

V 2 Micah longs for the days of the rich harvest. The righteous have gone from the land. The figs represent the godly in the land, which have been swept away. Jeremiah sees Israel as two baskets with figs, very good figs and very bad one. The good figs represent the good people who will be led into Babylonian captivity; the bad figs stand for the evil members of the nation who will perish in the land.

V 3 The princes and judges are all charging high prices for their services.

V 4. One finds only briars and thorns in the vineyard instead of fruitful vines.

Read Micah 7: 5-7 Crumbling relationships among God's people.

V 5-6 There is in vs. 5 a series of examples of bonds of deepening intimacy from neighbor to friend to lover. Vs. 6 takes this even further into blood bonds.

Read Matthew 10:34-36 This seems to be a direct quote from Micah.

Read Hebrews 4:12-13 The purpose of Jesus' coming is not to bring about division, but to expose the existing corruption for the purpose of healing.

V 7 Micah addresses his enemies in verses 7-10. Micah gives guidance to people as he says that he will wait for the God of his salvation.

Read Micah 7:8-10 The humble state of God's people

V 8-10 Micah speaks for those brought low by personal sin and the sin of the community. The enemy that taunted "where is your God?" will be ashamed. Micah says that they will be trodden down like mud in the streets.

Read Isaiah 37:33-36 Hezekiah had a lot of reasons to worry but Isaiah assures him that this army won't harm Jerusalem. Hezekiah believed that the Assyrians were attacking God.

Read Micah 7:11-13 The restored city of the people of God.

V 11-13 The restoration of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of its walls are symbolic for the renewal of God's revelation in this world. The people did in fact return

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from captivity and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt under Nehemiah, but those events were merely an outward expression of a greater spiritual reality.

Read Micah 7:14-15 God cares for His people as in days of old.

V 14 This verse is a prayer for the renewal of the former manifestations of grace.

V 15 The Lord answers this prayer with the promise of renewal. There is undoubtedly a reference to the coming of the Messiah as well as to events that will occur in apocalyptic times. We have witnessed in the twentieth century the miracle of the return of the Jews to Palestine and the forming of the state of Israel. In terms of territory and military power, Israel's survival borders on the supernatural.

Read Habakkuk 3: 16-19

Habakkuk countered his feeling of depression by reaching beyond judgment to God's grace.

Read Micah 7: 16-17 The nations are brought low before restored Israel.

V 16-17 When Israel is restored to the land and enjoys a restored relationship with the Lord, then those who opposed God's people will see how wrong they were to fight against them. The snake in vs. 17 refers to the first temptation on earth.

Read Micah 7:18-20

V 18-19 These two verses are Micah's praise of God for His mercy and grace. In verse 18 he is referring to his own name. "It is a theme verse and appropriately ends the book. Micah means 'Who is like Yahweh?' "There is no one or thing to which God can be compared, because He has no equal.

Mark 2: 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

In concluding His prophecy, Micah sees God's future work as a continuation of His past work to the fathers of Israel. V 20 Abraham and Jacob puts the grace of God on a legal basis. God has made a covenant with mankind through the ancestry of the people of Israel.