

Micah Lesson 44

INTRO:

- A. Micah prophesied in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
- B. Micah and Isaiah were prophesying almost at the exact same time, therefore it's not surprising to see many similarities between the two books.
- C. However, there are some important differences.
 - 1. Isaiah is often referred to as 'the prophet of the court', while Micah is referred to as 'the prophet of the villages'.
 - 2. Isaiah spoke in regards to political issues; Micah dealt almost entirely on personal religion and social morality.
 - 3. Micah emphasized to Judah some of the same lessons Amos had preached to Israel: condemning vain worship from those who were morally and spiritually bankrupt. Yet Micah grieves for his people as Hosea had done.
- D. Also, we will notice the message to Judah sounds very much like the message Amos and Hosea gave to Israel.
 - 1. Unless Judah repents, her judgment is sure to happen, as well.
 - 2. Even though Uzziah and Jotham were good kings, and Micah begins in the days of Jotham, the people of the land are corrupt and thus, the warning is needed.

I. Judgment Is Pronounced Upon Israel And Judah (Chapters 1-3):

- A. These first three chapters gives a sharp accusation and coming doom on both Israel and Judah with Samaria and Jerusalem being cities of those two nations.
- B. In these chapters, Micah describes the severe judgment coming from the Lord. **(1:3-5)**
- C. Those who were wealthy and oppressed the poor are condemned. **(2:1-3)**
- D. The false prophets who were crying peace were condemned and the people who listened to them were rebuked. **(chapter 3)**
- E. Though Israel and Judah had changed, God's attributes are unchanged - He still does good to those who do uprightly, but their sins made it necessary for God to punish.
- F. Micah calls upon the people: **(2:10)**
 - 1. It was liars who would lie for profit that the people wanted for prophets.
 - 2. The rulers were acting as cannibals in their dealings with the people.
 - 3. Reward, hire, money were the beginning and end of everything they did.
 - 4. Yet, they still claimed to lean upon the Lord and expected Him to protect them against evil.
 - 5. **(3:4)**
 - 6. Even the place of God's dwelling will be destroyed: **(3:12)**

II. The Future Exalting Of God's People (2:12-13; 4:1-5:15):

- A. Though God's judgment would be fierce, His anger would not burn forever.
- B. In the middle of these severe warnings of judgment, Micah prophesies of a "*remnant*" that remains faithful: **(2:12-13)**.
- C. As chapter 3 ends with a picture of Jerusalem's destruction, chapter 4 begins with a picture of Jerusalem being exalted above the hills.
 - 1. Here is one of those similarities between Isaiah 2:2-5 and Micah 4:1-4.

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- D. The expression "*in the last days*" or the "*latter days*" in the prophets always refers to the time of Christ and the New Testament dispensation.
1. In this "*last day*" God's government would be restored ("*the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established*"); "*peoples will flow into it*" (not just Jews); "*the word of the Lord (shall go forth) from Jerusalem*"; God "*will judge between many peoples*" and establish a kingdom of peace (one not sustained by warfare).
- E. With that, Micah returns to his own day.
1. Before the glory of those last days, judgment must come upon the land because of the sins of the people: **(4:9-10)** But again, God promises that a remnant will return.
- F. Let us notice in those two verses that Micah said the "*daughter of Zion*" (the people of Judah) would go into Babylon, though Assyria is the major enemy at this particular moment in time.
- [NOTE:** Without God's inspiration upon Micah, how could Micah know where Judah would be taken captive? Babylon is only a small country under the control of Assyria!]
- G. In chapter 5 Micah turns his attention back to the hope of the Messiah.
1. A ruler would arise from a lowly birth.
 2. He prophesied this ruler would be born of a virgin **(7:14)**, and now Micah adds that He will be born in a village - Bethlehem **(5:2)**.
 3. Though He comes from a lowly birth, He will be a great ruler - "... *Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.*" [that is, though His birth was still in the future in Micah's day, His existence was from ancient time.]
 4. All enemies will be defeated; no power will stand against Him.
 5. Wickedness and idolatry will be cut off. Vengeance will be meted out.
- H. This prophecy was fulfilled in Christ.
1. There is no future physical kingdom of Israel to be set up as the millennialists try to claim.

III. God And Israel Are In A Controversy (lawsuit); The Way Of Salvation (6-7):

- A. The Lord calls upon the mountains to witness in a lawsuit against the people.
- B. The mountains had endured, and would endure, so they could testify to the wickedness of the nation. The court convenes and the trial begins. God speaks first:
1. **(6:3-6)**
- C. The people answer: **(6:7-8)**
1. Paraphrase: "What do you want from us? Shall I bring a burnt offering when I come before you? Would you be happy if I brought a thousand rams and ten thousand rivers of oil? Maybe you would like for me to offer my firstborn son for my sins. We don't know how to please you, O God. We have observed all the rituals faithfully."
- D. Micah speaks: **(6:9)**
- E. God speaks again: **(6:9-16)**

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- F. Chapter 7:
1. The book of Micah ends by acknowledging the sins of the people.
 2. There were no righteous left; all were wicked.
 3. But a few, a spiritual remnant, looked to the Lord for salvation.
 4. God would hear these few and allow them to rise again.
 5. Then Micah offers a final prayer for God's blessings upon the remnant that would return: (7:14-15)
 6. (7:18)
 7. God had every right to destroy the people, but He was going to show mercy upon them and allow a remnant to return.
 8. **HE WOULD KEEP HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND JACOB!**

IV. Lessons To Be Learned From Micah:

- A. **God Condemns Violence And Taking Advantage Of The Poor!**
1. That was already clear by the law He gave to Israel at Mount Sinai, and it is stressed all the more by God's severe judgments on those who violated these laws.
 2. **Leviticus 23:22**
- B. **God Does Not Condone Hypocrisy!**
1. If we don't follow His ways (*do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God*), He is not interested in our religious rituals.
 2. He wants our hearts and not just our outward devotion.
- C. **God Judges Sin!**
1. And yet, He remains gracious.
 2. If we repent and turn back to Him, He is willing to forgive us.
- D. **Don't Only Listen To Those Who Agree With You!**
1. This is a danger many of us face and don't realize it.
 2. We tend to only accept ideas that support our existing views.
 3. That's fine, once our views are in harmony with God's word, but when that's not the case, we need to be careful.
 4. **Micah 2:11** -
 - a. This shows how the people would have been thrilled to have a person, claiming to be lead by God, declare things that are in keeping with their sinful desires.
 5. While it may not be to the this extent, yet Christians may find themselves with a similar attitude.
- E. **Being Blessed Or Cursed Is Up To Us!**
1. Some people blame the devil or God for their condition.
 2. When things go wrong, they may say, "The devil is at work".
 3. When things go the way they want them to, they may say, "God is good!"
 4. While God indeed blesses us and the Devil does every so often causes trouble, in general, being blessed or cursed is up to the person.
 5. In the book of Micah and highlighted in many other books of the bible, God indicates that He leaves it up to us whether we are blessed or cursed.

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- a. In **Micah 2:7**, God asked the question: “*Do not My words do good to him who walks upright?*” Now, how is this so?
6. Whenever God makes a promise to bless people, He usually associates that blessing with a condition.
7. The pattern goes like this, “If...Then...”. If you do this, then I’ll do that.
8. On the other hand, failing to meet the conditions has its results as well.
9. In **Joshua 24:20** Joshua tells the people, “***IF** you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, **THEN** He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.*”
10. **Micah 1:5** states God’s judgment on the people was because of Jacob’s transgression, because of the sins of the people of Israel.
11. In the same way their judgment was because of what they had done, many issues or blessings we experience could be because of what we’ve done.

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Hezekiah

2 Kings 18:1-20;21; 2 Chronicles 28:27-32:33

Isaiah 36-39