

The Book of Micah

I. THE OUTWARD LOOK: MICAH'S PUBLIC SERMONS (MICAH 1-6).

- A. Proclaiming the retribution upon Israel (1:3).
 - 1. First sermon (1):
 - a. God himself would soon respond in judgment because of the sins found in Samaria and Jerusalem (1:2-5).
 - b. Samaria would be utterly destroyed (1:6).
 - c. The enemy will come up to the very gates of Jerusalem (1:9).
 - 2. Second sermon (2):
 - a. God condemns those who lie awake at night, plotting wickedness, and rise at dawn to perform it (2:1).
 - b. Their punishment will only end when the Messiah (the Breaker and King of 2:13) leads them out of exile through the gates of their cities of captivity, back to their own land.
 - 3. Third sermon (3):
 - a. Israel's leaders are especially rebuked by God. They were supposed to know right from wrong, but were themselves the vilest sinners of all (3:1-7).
 - b. Micah alone of the prophets at that time was "full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin" (3:8).
 - c. Because of those false prophets, Jerusalem would later be plowed as a field and become a heap of rubble. The very spot on Mt. Moriah where the Temple stood would be overgrown with brush (3:12).
- B. Prophesying the restoration of Israel (4-5). In spite of her terrible sins, God would someday, after her punishment had been consummated, restore her to Palestine.
 - 1. The chronology leading to this restoration:
 - a. Judah must first suffer the seventy-year Babylonian captivity (4:10). This was a remarkable passage indeed, for at the time Micah wrote, Babylon was anything but a world power. Assyria was the strong nation then.
 - b. Judah's Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (5:2).
 - c. God would set them aside awhile as a nation until their spiritual rebirth during the tribulation (5:3).
 - d. The nations would gather together against Israel at Armageddon (4:11-13).
 - e. These nations would be utterly destroyed (5:15).
 - 2. The final results of this restoration (4:1-7).
- C. Pleading for the repentance of Israel (6). See Micah 6:3-8.
 - 1. What God had done for Israel (6:1-5).
 - 2. What Israel was doing against God (6:16).
 - 3. What God would do to Israel (6:14, 15).

II. THE INWARD LOOK: MICAH'S PERSONAL CONTEMPLATIONS (MICAH 7:1-6).

"Woe is me! 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 first ripe fruit" (7:1).

III. THE UPWARD LOOK: MICAH'S PRAYERFUL PETITIONS (MICAH 7:7-20).

- A. His decision for God:
 - 1. He would wait for the future salvation of the Lord (7:7, 8, 10-17).
 - 2. He would endure the present indignation from the Lord (7:9).
- B. His description of God (7:18-20):

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