***“Studying the Southern Kingdom Prophets”—Micah 6, the Coming Judgment***

**6:1-2, “Hear now what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, O you mountains, the Lord’s complaint, and you strong foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a complaint against His people, and He will contend with Israel.”**

1. **Where do we find “hear” elsewhere in Micah? See Micah 1:2, 3:1.**
	1. **Who is this “third and final” message addressed to**? The nations of the world
	2. **What are the “mountains?” See Deuteronomy 2:35, 44.** Mountains are kingdoms
2. **Describe the “court of law” which seems to be taking place in Micah 6.** Arise, plead your case: Micah pictures a court of law, with Israel on trial before the Lord. In the presence of unshakable witnesses (the mountains and the hills and the strong foundations of the earth), the court comes to order.
	1. **What was God’s complaint against the people?** The Lord has a complaint against His people, and He will contend with Israel: In His court, God will bring His case - His complaint against Israel.
	2. **God is calling Israel to court. Why?**

**6:3-5, “O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the Lord.”**

1. **In verse 3, God does an astonishing thing. He asks a simple question: “What have I done to you?” Explain.** He has done nothing but good to Israel, and has been repaid with rejection and rebellion.
	1. **See Isaiah 43:23-24 and Jeremiah 2:31.**
2. **In verse 4, discuss the symbolism to Egypt?**
	1. **Talk about the reference to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.**
		1. **Take note of Miriam in Exodus 2:4-10, I Chronicles 6:3, and Exodus 15:20. She is the sister of Moses and Aaron, called the prophetess, prominent in the history of Exodus. Led a song of triumph after the passage of the Red Sea.**
			1. **Review her rebellion against Moses when he married a Cushite wife in Numbers 12:1-15.**
			2. **Where was she buried? Note: Numbers 20:1.**
	2. **Who is Balaam and Balak? See Numbers 22:2, 4 and Joshua 24:9. Remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled**: After meeting with King Balak of Moab, Balaam prophesied over Israel four times. As he spoke forth God’s word, he did not curse Israel - but he blessed them each time. When he was

unsuccessful in cursing Israel, Balaam **answered** Balak on how to bring Israel under a curse. Instead of trying to have a prophet curse them, the Moabites lead them into fornication and idolatry, and God will curse them. Balak did just that, sending his young women into the camp of Israel to lead Israel into sexual immorality and idolatry. Because of their sin, God did curse Israel - He brought a plague of judgment upon Israel that killed 24,000. In the light of this, Israel mustremember that God could never be persuaded to curse Israel, except if they brought curses on themselves through their own disobedience and rebellion. Like a great lawyer in court, God shows Israel that if they feel cursed in any way, it is entirely their responsibility.

* + 1. **See Numbers 22-24, Revelation 2:12-17 (THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM, the Corrupted Church, Pergamos, the perverted marriage ), and I Peter 2:2.**
		2. **Review “the gospel” as in I Corinthians 15:1-4.**
		3. **See Colossians 2:8.**
		4. **Discuss the “talking donkey” in Numbers 22:30.**
1. **Where is the “Acacia Grove” to “Gilgal?”** this means from the last camp before Moab, the Acacia Grove/Shittim, to the first camping spot when entering the Promised Land, Gilgal. This is the entire detour that Moab forced on Israel**.**

**\*\*\*THIS IS CALLED THE “PURE RELIGION’ PASSAGE—VERSES 6-7—this is a wonderful section where God pleads with the people to come back to Him, repent of their sins, and turn back to Him. He reminds them of how He redeemed them out of Egypt/the world, provided for them in the wilderness, and now the people ask four questions…..VERY GOOD QUESTIONS!**

**6:6-7, “With what shall I come before the Lord, *and* bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?”**

1. **The first question is: With what shall I come before the Lord** or “how am I going to approach God?” This is a question asked out of bitterness and resentment. Israel calls out to God from the witness stand, and says: Just what do You want from me? A proud heart can be often evidenced in a man’s insistence in “doing something for God.”
	1. **Contrast the pride of this with reliance and trust, as seen in John 6:28-29.**
	2. **See also Acts 16:30-31.**
2. **Discuss “Question two:” Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? We can almost hear Israel shouting at God from the witness stand. You ask too much, God. Nothing will satisfy You. If we brought thousands of rams or rivers of oil or even my own firstborn it would not be enough. You are unreasonable.**
	1. **Sacrificing one’s first born was a pagan practice which God abhorred. Examine Jeremiah 19:5 and 32:35.**
		1. **Talk about evil Ahaz, 2 Kings 16:3, 2 Chronicles 28:3, and Manessah in 2 Kings 21:6.**
		2. **Why is child sacrifice prohibited by God? Use Leviticus 18:21, 20:2-5, Deuteronomy 12:31, and 18:10.**
		3. **Who were the Amorites? See Leviticus 20:2-5 and I Kings 11:5.**
	2. **What kind of sacrifice does God want? The heart**
		1. **Refer to Romans 12:1 and Hebrews 10:4.**
		2. **When does God require the first-born? See Exodus 13:2, Numbers 18:15.**
			1. **Why could man not be redeemed this way? He was unclean**
			2. **Talk about Isaac being required by God in Genesis 22.**

**\*\*VERSE 8 IS CALLED “THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT OF THE O.T.” –THIS VERSE STANDS AS THE MOTTO OF THE ALCOVE OF RELIGION IN THE READING ROOM OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRAY IN WASHINGTON. Some Rabbis call this verse “a one-line summary of the whole law.” This answers the questions of the previous section.**

**6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”**

1. **What is God’s answer to the previous questions?** He has shown you: God stops the shouting of the angry defendant from the witness box. You act as if it is some mystery what I require of you. In point of fact it is no mystery at all. I have shown you clearly what is good and what I require of you. **To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God**: The Lord answers the contentious witness in open court. What I require of you isnt complicated. Simply do three things. **Love mercy**: Dont just show mercy, but *love* to show it. Give others the same measure of mercy you want to receive from the Me.
	1. **Parallel with I Samuel 15:22, Isaiah 1:11-20, Jeremiah 7:21-23, Hosea 6:6, Amos 4:5, 5:15, and 22-23.**
	2. **Compare with Deuteronomy 10:12-13.**
	3. **How can we achieve these conditions? Use Galations 5:22-23, Acts 15:10-11, Romans 8:5-9, and John 1:12.**
	4. **What is the “predicament of man?” See Romans 3:9-18, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 3:10, and Psalm 14:1-3.**
	5. **Does Micah 6:8 imply that you can get to heaven on your own? See Romans 3:10.**

***HERE IS AN OUTLINE OF THE NEXT SECTION:***

1. **Opening Statement, verse 9**
2. **Catalog of Commercial and Social Sins, verses 10-12**
3. **Announcement of Punishment from God, verses 13-15**
4. **Summary Statement, verse 16**

**6:9-12, “The Lords voice cries to the city; wisdom shall see Your name: Hear the Rod! Who has appointed it? Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the short measure *that is* an abomination? Shall I count pure *those* with the wicked scales, and with the bag of deceitful weights? For her rich men are full of violence, her inhabitants have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”**

1. **Who is the Rod? Hear the Rod! Who has appointed it?** Israel *felt* the rod of God, but did not hear it. God tells them to Hear the Rod, both in the sense of the *rod* as a picture of the corrective discipline of God, and in the sense that the Rod can be personified as the voice of God Himself.
	1. **Discuss how “the rod” is an emblem for judgment. See Psalm 2:9, Isaiah 10:5 and 24.**
2. **Verse 10 hints at the wickedness of wealth accumulated by deceit. Elaborate.**
3. **Verse 11 points at dishonest business dealings. Refer to Leviticus 19:35, 36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, and Amos 8:5.**

**“Therefore I will also make *you* sick by striking you, by making *you* desolate because of your sins. You shall eat, but not be satisfied; hunger *shall be* in your midst. You may carry *some* away, but shall not save *them;* and what you do rescue I will give over to the sword. You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; and *make* sweet wine, but not drink wine. For the statutes of Omri are kept; all the works of Ahab’s house *are done;* and you walk in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing. Therefore you shall bear the reproach of My people.”**

1. **Verses 12-14 hint at famine as God’s punishment. Elaborate on Amos 8:11.**
2. **In verse 16, who is Omri? Examine I Kings 16.**  Omri, northern kingdom, (931 B.C.) is the father of evil king Ahab. Even though he lived 200 years before Micah, his evilness is still being felt in Judah. Remember the “awful” Ahab and Jezebel in the northern kingdom, and their sin-filled legacy. **REMEMBER: MICAH IS WARNING. THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM ABOUT HOW SIN DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM!** When Elah was murdered by Zimri, his captain, Omri, took control. Tibni, an opponent, tried to claim the throne, but was defeated soundly in 927 B.C. He is noted for moving the northern kingdom’s capital to Samaria, aka Beth-Omri, **2 Kings 1:1, 3:4-5.**
	1. **See I Kings 3:2, 16:25, 30 and talk about how evil Omri was.**
	2. **Compare Jehoram in 2 Chronicles 21:6.**
	3. **See also 2 Kings 21:2 which refers to Manasseh.**
3. **What is the theme of Micah 6? Apply it to today.**

**And, here are the promises…**

**Micah 7:18, “Who *is* a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights *in* mercy.”**

**Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”**



