***“Studying the Southern Kingdom Prophets”—Micah 7***

**This last chapter of Micah is similar to Jeremiah’s Book of Lamentations. It also echoes the prayer of the repentant remand in the “Day of Jacob’s Trouble,” or the Great Tribulation. Verses 1-9 are called, “The Soliloquy of Penitence.”**

1. **Verses 1-9 have often been called, “The Soliloquy of Penitence.” Explain. These had local application during the days of Micah, and are also a portrayal of the dark days of the antichrist.**
	1. **Compare with Matthew 24:9-31,**
2. **Verse 1’s, “Woe is me!” is very personal for Micah. Discuss.**
3. **Who is the Vine? See Psalm 80:8-9,** .**Isaiah 5:1-7, 28:4, and Hosea 9:10**
4. **Who is “The faithful man has perished from the earth?” Verse 2 implies that lawlessness abounds. Elaborate.**
5. **Discuss how this section alludes to bribery and corruption in high places. Refer to Naboth’s vineyard in I Kings 21: 1-7.**
	1. **See also Revelation 2:10.**
6. **What does Micah mean by “like a brier?” Examine 2 Samuel 23:6-7.**
7. **Who is “your watchman?” Use Isaiah 21:6, Ezekiel 33:2, and Luke 21:25.**
8. **Compare this section with Jesus’ own words in Matthew 10:34.**
	1. **Refer also to I Thessalonians 5:21 “**Test all things; hold fast what is good.”
9. **There is an ominous warning in verse 5: “Do not trust in a friend.”** Elaborate.
	1. **Echo this sentiment in Matthew 10:34.**
10. **Verse 6 is paralleled by Jesus in Matthew 10:21-36; discuss.**
11. **Jesus warns us of the ominous circumstances coming on the earth in End Days. Re-visit Luke 21:26-28 and compare with Micah 7:7.**
12. **Micah suggests “fairness” about the Lord’s indignation. Why?**
	1. **Is there, here, a “hinted at” difference between remorse and penitence?** .
	2. **Does God use the “rod” of Assyrian invasion to bring the Northern Kingdom of Israel to its knees?** **What about Babylon for Judah? America?**
13. **Does Micah suggest that God’s righteousness will eventually bring help for Israel?**
14. **When is “in the day?”**
	1. **Compare this “Wall Building,” verses 11-12, in latter days, to Daniel’s “69 Weeks” referenced in Daniel 9:25.**
	2. **Why does Micah mention Assyria specifically? See Micah 4:2.**
15. **Elaborate on “Shepherd Your people with Your staff,” or as in the KJV, “Feed thy people with Thy rod.”** .
	1. **Who is the rod? See Revelation 2:27.**
	2. **Who is the shepherd? Use John 10:11.**
	3. **Where is Carmel?**
		1. **See Deuteronomy 3:12-17, “Jeremiah 50:19 and Zechariah 11:1-3.**
16. **In verse 14, what are “the days of old?”**
	1. **Reference Micah 4:4 and I Kings 4:15.**
17. **Why does God remind Israel of one of His “most important rescues” for Israel, the escape from Egypt? Where else do we see this same rhetoric?**
18. **In verse 16, what does the phrase, “The nations shall see and be ashamed**” **refer to?**
	1. **Parallel this section with Rahab’s confession in Joshua 2:10-11.**
	2. **When will Israel be regathered in order to possess the land, verse 14?**
19. **The strange terms, “lick the dust like a serpent,” might refer to Satan’s curse in Genesis 3:14. Talk about this.**
20. **What about “crawl from their holes?**’
	1. **Does this parallel Revelation 6**:**15-16,** Joshua **10:16, 22,** **and 24**.
	2. **Compare this with the “Wrath of the Lamb?**”
21. **Can anyone answer the question, “Who is a God like You?”**
	1. **Micah’s name means, “Who is like Yahweh?” Is this last entreaty a play on words by Micah saying, “Who is a God like You?”**
	2. **Who is God?**
		1. **He is the Creator. Use Romans 1:21-23, Isaiah 44:16, and 46:5-7,**
		2. **He is holy and righteous. See I Samuel 2:2.**
		3. **He pardons iniquity and delights in mercy. See Exodus 33:18-19, Psalm 103:9-10, and Isaiah 57:16.**
22. **How does Micah explain God’s forgiveness to us all?**
	1. **Refer to Exodus 15:4, 10, and Jeremiah 50:20.**
	2. **Forgiveness like a debt; see also Isaiah 43:25, Acts 3:19**, **and Colossian 2:14,**
	3. **Forgiveness like the healing of a disease; use Jeremiah 3:22and Isaiah 61:1.**
	4. **Forgiveness like cleaning pollution or contamination; paralleled in Titus 3:5, and John 1:7.**
23. **Micah’s last verse re-affirms God’s covenant to Abraham. Examine Genesis 12:2-3, 26:24, and note that Ishmael is not on His list.**
24. **Take note that the last three verses of Micah seven are joined with Jonah in the reading in the synagogue for the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Discuss why. This service is called “Taschlich,” after the Hebrew word meaning, “thou wilt cast.”**
25. **What does “from days of old” refer to?**
	1. **Parallel with** [**Psalm 105:8-10**](https://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references/search?q=Psalm+105%3A8-10)**.**
	2. **Examine also** [**Genesis 17:7-8**](https://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references/search?q=Genesis+17%3A7-8)**.**

***“Studying the Southern Kingdom Prophets”—Micah, the Review***

**In 734 B.C., the Assyrians carried away all of northern Israel, with Shalimanezer of Assyria, in 721 B.C., attacking the northern capital of Samaria to finish the job. Eight years later, Sennacherib, Shalmanezer’s successor, attacked the Southern Kingdom of Judah to be defeated by King Jesus’ killing of 185,000 of his men; he returned home, never to attack the Southern Kingdom again. Micah prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the Southern Kingdom, Judah. The northern kings of the same time, which Micah never mentions are: Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea. He served as a prophet for over 40 years. His focus on the sins of the Northern Kingdom serve as a warning and reminder to Judah. Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah serve as prophets, as well, but their messages go unheeded by the people. Not so with Micah, who made a difference with Judah. Hosea and Amos were ignored, and Jeremiah was imprisoned. Micah’s warnings held back God’s judgment for over a century.**

**Who was Micah? We know very little about Micah’s life, other than he was a rural, rather than urban, prophet, like Amos. And when he pronounced judgment on cities and Jerusalem, he received the label, “the prophet of the city! He was very different from Isaiah, who was known to be of royalty and familiar with the court. He did have an emphasis, however, on naming specific cities. He wrote with a flavor sharpness, almost cutting, and most of his Contemporaries with Micah were Isaiah and Hosea, who was prophet to the northern kingdom; and he bore fruit during the reign of Hezekiah, according to 2 Kings 18-20. During this time period, Samaria was capital of the northern Kingdom (a city built by Omri, evil king Ahab’s father).**

**There is a “Hidden Hero” in Micah. 120 years later than Micah was written, Jeremiah uses Micah’s words in his defense, and this saves his life! (Jeremiah 26:19)**

**HIS GRAND QUESTION IS: “WHO IS LIKE UNTO THEE?”**

**KEY VERSE: “HE HATH SHEWED THEE, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOTH THE LORD REQUIRE OF THEE, BUT TO DO JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH THY GOD? MICAH 6:8**

**MOST FAMOUS VERSE: Micah 5:2, ““But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
*Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *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.”**

**WHY WAS MICAH SUCCESSFUL?**

1. **He identified personally with the people, and followed his own advise.**
2. **He was specific, naming town by town.**
3. **He was persistent and never gave up. Through 3 successive kings: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.**

**THREE STEPS TO THE DOWNFALL OF A NATION:**

1. **Spiritual Apostasy**
2. **Immorality**
3. **Political Anarchy**

**THE PROPHET BALAAM: Revelation 2:14, 2 Peter 2:15, and Jude 11**

**UNCONDITIONAL COVENANTS:**

1. **Abrahamic Covenant, Genesis 12**
2. **Land Covenant, Genesis 15 and 17**
3. **Davidic Covenant, 2 Samuel 7, Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:31-33, Acts 1:6-7, Micah 4:2, Acts 15:15-18**
4. **Everlasting Covenant, Jeremiah 31:31**

**THE PARABLE OF THE TREES and THE ASSYRIAN**

**ORGANIZATION OF MICAH:**

**Chapter 1—Sins against God**

**Chapter 2—Sins Against Each Other**

**Chapter 3—Sins by Their Leaders**

**Chapter 4—The Coming Kingdom**

**Chapter 5—The Coming King**

**Chapter 6—The Coming Judgment**

**Chapter 7—The Final Wrap-up**

