

“Living in a Godless World – Part 2”
Micah 7
(Preached at Trinity, March 12, 2023)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve seen, the Book of Micah contains judgment and condemnation as well as mercy and hope. This final chapter finds Micah writing as one of God’s faithful remnant. In **Verses 1-6** Micah laments the terrible religious decline in Judah.
2. God’s demands upon His people are simple. He expects fruitfulness—steadfast loyalty.
 - A. As God’s prophet Micah longed to see this fruitfulness, but as he gazed upon the land he saw nothing but barrenness.
Micah 7:1 NAU - "There is not a cluster of grapes to eat"
 - B. Micah lamented that a Godly man was not to be found in all the land.
Micah 7:2 NAU - "The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright *person* among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net."
 - C. What does God demand of your life? What does God demand of our church? He demands spiritual fruitfulness. Of genuine faith that bears the fruit of holiness and faithfulness.
3. Micah begins, “Woe is me!”
Micah was living as one of God’s remnant—the righteous in the midst of the wicked.
 - A. The land was corrupt from the top down. **Verse 3** has government officials in mind—the prince, the judge – all willing and ready to receive a bribe. The “great man” is probably referring to the king.
 - B. The moral disintegration encompassed every aspect of society. Micah speaks of the corruption of even the closest of relationships.
4. We are watching our own society coming unraveled. Corruption is all around us. How do we live under such moral decline?
Micah speaks as one of God’s remnant. “But as for me . . .” – **Verse 7**
Let all others follow the path of wickedness, but "I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me."
5. How does one live in a world where so few seek to please God? Where do we place our hope?

I. We maintain a state of watching and waiting – **Verse 7.**

A. Micah describes persevering with watchfulness

"I will watch expectantly for the LORD"

1. Watchfulness demands focus, an intentional eye upon Christ.
2. When Micah looked to the leadership and the citizens of his day he saw nothing but barrenness. Instead, he kept his eyes upon God.
3. We should live with a sense of earnest expectation. Of watching. Of staying alert. Of looking for the coming of Christ. It is sad when Christians live as if He will never return.

Matthew 24:45-51 NAU - "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ "But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; ⁵⁰ the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know, ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

4. We can remain watchful even in the worst of conditions, even in the midst of the wickedness that surrounds us. Habakkuk reminds us that we can find joy even during times of barrenness.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 NAU - "Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive
should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should
be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ Yet I
will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."

5. In our sinful culture we have to maintain a Christ priority, a Christian focus as we press on with watchfulness.

B. Micah also describes patient waiting

"I will wait for the God of my salvation."

1. This describes patience. It describes hope, expectation, confidence. It describes looking for the fulfillment of what God has already promised. God's people have always had this sure expectation. Jacob prayed before his death.

Genesis 49:18 KJV - "I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD."

2. Isaiah wrote about the same time as Micah.

Isaiah 40:31 NAU - "Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

3. We have but one hope.
"I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me."
4. As we patiently await our Lord our prayer must continually be,
"Oh Lord, keep me faithful until you return."

II. We live with joy in the midst of the opposition of this world.

- A. Micah was not discouraged by the criticism of those who do not know God
1. Let them mock us when we suffer. God is just in His dealings with us. We are confident in the outcome.
Micah 7:8 NAU - "Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me."
 2. Perhaps in **Verse 10** Micah had in mind the mockery of the Assyrians.
Micah 7:10 NAU - "Where is the LORD your God?"
Or perhaps there is a much broader scope as God's people live in this fallen world. Mockery is always present. Darkness surrounds us.
As Bruce Waltke suggests:
"The prophecy is stated abstractly, never naming the enemy, because it is applicable to the salvation of God's people from any enemy".¹
- B. When we face adversity, we do not complain.
1. We fully confess that we deserve nothing less.
Micah 7:9 NAU - "I will bear the indignation of the LORD Because I have sinned against Him"
 2. Micah and his contemporaries suffered exile because of their own sin. God is always just in His dealings with us.
 3. When we complain during adversity we are joining with our adversaries who say, "where is God?" Instead, we boldly proclaim, "He is right here beside me."
 4. We continue to look to Him who will vindicate us in due time.
Micah 7:9-10 NAU - "Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, *And* I will see His righteousness. ¹⁰ Then my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?"

III. We live with confidence in the outcome

- A. Micah draws attention to a victorious city – Jerusalem restored.
1. He speaks of the rebuilding of walls
Micah 7:11 NAU - "*It will be* a day for building your walls."
 2. He speaks of the expansion of boundaries
Micah 7:11 NAU - "On that day will your boundary be extended."
This is fulfilled through the church filled with people from the ends of the earth and finds its ultimate victory in the New Jerusalem.
 3. Micah also speaks of God's judgment. Of condemnation and desolation
Micah 7:13 NAU - "And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, On account of the fruit of their deeds."
 4. And he tells us of a sovereign Shepherd and a people restored
Micah 7:14 NAU - "Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, The flock of Your possession Which dwells by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old."

¹ Waltke, Bruce K., *A Commentary on Micah*, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans's Publishing Company, 2007 – page 451.

5. He speaks of the humbling of the nations, their submission to the King.
- B. All of this is by God's redemptive purpose
Micah 7:20-1:1 NAU - "You will give truth to Jacob *And* unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old."
1. From all eternity He has determined the deliverance of His people and the victory of His church.
 2. And what is our response? We marvel at our King and praise Him for His goodness.
Micah 7:18 NAU - "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?"
 3. His judgment upon His people was for a moment. His covenant love is everlasting.
Micah 7:18-19 NAU - "He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea."

Conclusion:

1. This is God's purpose. This is the focus of God's Word. It is about His covenant to redeem His people from their corruption. God determined to save His elect people according to His eternal covenant of redemption.
2. We see it with God's earthly covenants:
 - The Noaic Covenant where God promised to sustain creation in spite of their universal corruption.
 - The Abrahamic Covenant, where God promised a people, a land, and a seed through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed.
 - The Mosaic Covenant that foreshadowed Christ with types and shadows.
 - We've seen God raising up kings, all suffering under the plague of sin, all failures, none able to provide God's people the benefit of a righteous reign. But God made a promise with one, a covenant with David of an everlasting throne – fulfilled by the King of kings.
3. God has provided a Redeemer, a Deliverer, the Seed of Abraham, the Son of David. God has fulfilled His promise—unchanging love promised from days of old.