

Micah 1:8-16 “Back to the Cave of Adullam”

For the Children: Caves can be a lot of fun. I have been down many limestone caves, with their stalactites and stalagmites. I have been in beach-caves, smugglers' caves and caves in river-banks. Sometimes people hide in caves when they are being chased. David hid in the Cave of Adullam when Saul was after him. Micah warns God's people that if they turn away from Him, they will end up hiding in caves from the Assyrian army. But no one can hide from God. If you turn away from Him, you will lose everything! **Questions:** Why did the Southern Kingdom have to be sad about what was going to happen to the Northern Kingdom? Why is it such a bad thing to trust in yourself more than in the Lord? If God protects His church, why should we worry about being faithful?

Introduction:

First Point: Grief over the North

- 1) Lament Is a “Must”: Micah “must” lament over “this” – the fact that Samaria is about to be destroyed. The text is full of typical outward expressions of grief common in the ancient near east. For the Northern Kingdom has passed the point of no return.
- 2) A Lament over Covenant-People: Samaria was wicked and often hostile to Judah. Micah was himself from near Jerusalem. Yet these were still covenant-members at that point. Moreover, their destruction could cause the pagans around to gloat. Hence v. 10 cites 2 Sam. 1:20, where David lamented the death of Saul (his enemy), Jonathan and many of the Israelites. David did not want the Philistines to hear of it and rejoice. For he was concerned about how this loss could be used to reject the Lord. Micah urges sorrow over church-deformation, but not in such a way that gives a bad witness.

Second Point: Grief over Judah

- 1) An Infection Has Spread: Samaria's wound had spread to Judah/Jerusalem. The judgement against the North will therefore touch the South as well. Hence the repetition of both “Jerusalem” and “Israel” in vss. 9-15.
- 2) The 10 Towns: Micah warns Judah by taking the names of 10 towns in the Shephalah, a region between Jerusalem and the coast. This is the area the Assyrians would ravage, after they had destroyed Samaria. Micah makes a play on words with the names of the 10 towns, showing the grief that would come to each one. He begins by citing David's refuge in Gath, and ends with David's refuge in the Cave of Adullam. This makes the point, that David's kingdom would be undone and end in hiding, as happened to David for a time.
- 3) Trusting in Chariots: This was all due to Judah's sin. One underlying sin is singled out: self-trust rather than trusting the Lord. Lachish, a chariot-town, is singled out as the place where, under Solomon, Israel began to trust in her own military might. That self-reliance led (and leads) to other sins. See Mt.23 and Rom. 9:1-3 for NT examples of trusting in man's works.

Third Point: Grief over the Children

- 1) The Loss of the Children: The Assyrian invasion would lead to the deportation of many from Judah – including “the children in whom you delight.” This is another reason for grief at what began in Samaria but spread to Jerusalem. Many children are lost spiritually today because they follow their parents in unbelief and wickedness.
- 2) The Lord Who Overcomes Weakness and Sin: The Lord will preserve a faithful remnant for Himself. However, that is no reason to take His warnings lightly: Those who turn from Him will ultimately lose all their covenant privileges.

Conclusion:

