

Message #13

Micah 7:1-7

We have a prayer meeting here every Wednesday night and I wish some of you could be there to listen to the men pray. These are men who love the Lord and love the word of God and they are burdened and broken hearted over the evil and the sin they are seeing right now in the United States of America.

Some of these men have served in the military and what they are seeing take place in this country is shocking to them. When you listen to them pray, it is obvious they are deeply troubled and they are crying out to God to intervene.

That is exactly where Micah was when he saw what was happening to his nation. He was a prophet of God. He loved God and he loved God's word and he was watching his nation fall apart.

As we come to this series of verses what we see is this:

**GODLY PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE WORD OF GOD WILL NOT FIND ANY POSITIVE SUPPORT, HOPE OR COMFORT FROM PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD SO THEY MUST KEEP THEIR FOCUS AND HOPE IN THE LORD.**

Micah was looking at a nation falling apart and many close to him were also falling apart.

In **verse 1**, Micah describes his own personal condition - "woe is me." Israel was the nation of God. It had been a theocratic nation in which God ruled. The United States has never been a theocratic nation. It has been a democratic nation. Although there are some great similarities between what has happened in the United States, it was worse for Israel.

Now the "for" that follows introduces us to reasons why Micah was so discouraged.

Now much of what we will see in these verses will be completely seen and experienced and experienced in the Great Tribulation. There are 14 reasons Micah was so burdened:

**REASON #1** – Because there was very little good fruit anywhere in the nation. **7:1b**

As Micah walked through the land of Israel and looked for anyone who loved God and His word and took it seriously, he was depressed to a "woe" level. He was like a person who travels around looking for some good fruit, but he couldn't find any. There was no righteous, good fruit to be found.

Micah was disappointed, down and depressed. Israel should have been flourishing as the people of God. She should have been producing an abundance of physical and spiritual fruit. But she wasn't.

There was no cluster of grapes he could pick, there were no figs he could get. These were things that were considered blessings of God in the land. An abundance of grapes and figs were blessings of God. But the blessings were gone.

That is what Micah saw as he traveled around. There was very little good fruit left and it was hard to find.

When Jesus Christ was actually here on earth, He found the exact same thing and used a fig tree to make the point (Mark 11:12-14).

**REASON #2** – Because the good godly people were gone. **7:2a**

The word “godly” is most interesting. It describes the kind of person that has a righteous piety that includes kindness, grace, mercy and compassion (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 293-294). This kind of person has a zeal for the word of God and application of it. Micah says I looked to find godly people and they were gone.

When godly people are gone from a nation, what is left is moral, social, political and spiritual corruption. There are no godly leaders or direction.

Now there is a prophetic application we may make here to the Rapture of the Church. When the Church is raptured, godly people will be gone and the program of God will swing back to Israel. That time will be a “woe” time not just for a prophet like Micah, but for everyone in the world.

**REASON #3** – Because there are no upright men. **7:2b**

What a statement. There was no upright person left who lined up his thinking and life with the word of God. The vast majority of people were not upright ethically, morally or spiritually. We certainly learn from this that God expects His people to live upright lives that are moral and good.

That word “upright” means that Micah could not find people who were lining up their lives straight with the word of God. People were not living in righteous, right and just ways.

**REASON #4** – Because all people were cut-throat hunters and killers. **7:2c**

The description here is that the people were so self-centered that they didn’t care who they hurt. They became a group of “cut-throat killers.” They hunted people with a net trying to ensnare them so they could destroy them.

The majority were tracking down godly, righteous people and killing them so there were none left. This is precisely what will happen in the Great Tribulation. There will be much killing and destruction and wicked people will try to trap and ensnare any who are godly and upright.

**REASON #5** – Because people were good at doing evil with both hands. **7:3a**

What a statement, these people were good at evil. They were not skilled at handling and applying God's word, but they were skilled in evil. These were God's people and they were at an expert level in evil. This is a sad description because what this says is that this is all they know how to do. All they know how to do is evil. All they know how to do is sin. They don't even have one hand that knows how to do anything good. Both hands were totally corrupt.

Dr. S. Lewis Johnson once said if you want to come up with an illustration of evil at any time, you don't have to do any research because wickedness and evil are always there any day you need an illustration.

**REASON #6** – Because people in power bribe and buy their way out of justice. **7:3b**

People at the top were corrupt. There was no sense of justice or right. Powerful people were running things and they could be bought and bribed. Judges could be bought and bribed. They were not interested in justice or truth. Powerful people could buy their way out of trouble and no one was doing anything about it.

**REASON #7** – Because people who are powerful do whatever they desire and weave evil. **7:3c**

The powerful people would weave together their evil plans to gain more and more wealth and power. The political and judicial world joined together to weave their evil.

**REASON #8** – Because the best of this world is like a briar. **7:4a**

The best of the people were like a briar. A briar is a long thorn that can catch you or your clothing and ensnare you. That is what these people would do. They would catch the people, entangle people and hurt people if it helped them.

**REASON #9** – Because the most upright person is like a thorn hedge. **7:4b**

Any tree, bush or shrub that has thorns may be classified as a thorn hedge. The most upright people were people who injured people like a thorn hedge. They did not help people, they hurt people. Micah says this was what supposedly the best of the people were doing in that nation. They were ensnaring people and hurting people.

In **verse 4**, Micah interjects that their punishment is coming. The day you post your guards and the day you get serious about the threats, God will put you in confusion and bring you down.

We learn something here about God's judgment. God's chastising judgment typically hits when people feel confident and secure and successful in what they are doing. They are living their lives contrary to God's word and they have a confidence to them. It is at those moments when God judges.

**REASON #10** – Because you cannot trust your neighbor. **7:5a**

Things were so corrupt that they could not trust neighbors. Neighbors were telling them they have nothing to fear and everything was great. But even behind the scenes the neighbors were looking out for their own prosperity.

**REASON #11** – Because you cannot trust your friend. **7:5b**

Things were so corrupt that they could not trust or have confidence in those who had been friends. Even friends were shading truth to promote their own agenda.

There have been churches that have split due to friends who became enemies.

**REASON #12** – Because you cannot trust your mate. **7:5c**

Things had become so corrupt that they could not trust or have confidence in those who were their mate.

In fact, Micah says you must guard what you say even with your mate, because she will ruin you.

**REASON #13** – Because you cannot trust your children. **7:6a**

A son treats his father with contempt. A daughter is against her mother. The home that is supposed to be a place of refuge is a war zone and battle field.

**REASON #14** – Because you cannot trust your family. **7:6b**

Jesus taught this very same principle. He said that a commitment to Him can and will at times divide families (Luke 12:53). The truth of God's word can split families.

In fact, Jesus predicted that just before He would return to take over the world, family members will so betray other family members that they will be responsible for their death (Matthew 10:21-23).

Micah says to guard your lips and speech in what you say because the world had become a place of evil spies.

One of the real problems we tend to have is that we look to a core group for our security. But quite honestly, there is only One who can give us security. That One is God.

What could Micah do in living in such a world? What can we do when living in such a world?

Does God want us to picket or protest government? Does God want His people to generate some clandestine insurrectionist movement?

**Micah gives us the answer in three words: 1) Watch; 2) Wait; 3) Pray.**

Notice **verse 7**, Micah says:

Micah could not find one thing in this world that brought him any comfort or hope, so he looked to the Lord. That is where he found it.

Micah said, I cannot find any positive thing from looking at this world, but I can find much looking to the LORD.

- 1) I will watch expectantly for the intervention of the LORD.
- 2) I will wait for my God to save me.
- 3) I know my God will hear me.

Now just exactly what was Micah watching and waiting for? We learn in Micah 5:2 that one of the things He was watching and waiting for was One born in Bethlehem to come take over.

He was watching and waiting for Jesus Christ to come and He was praying to God about it.

That is what we need to do. This is a very simple, yet critical formula for coping with this world situation:

- 1) We expectantly watch.
- 2) We patiently wait.
- 3) We fervently pray.

As we watch and wait for Christ to rapture us, we need to stay focused on understanding and applying His word. We want to be godly people. We want to be upright people. We want to be righteous people.