

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Woe is me For I am like those who gather summer fruits like those who glean vintage
- II) **REVIEW:** God had just stated that the nation was in rebellion and that judgment was justified
- III) **HE ASKED:** What have I done to you, and how have I wearied you, and said testify against Me!
- IV) **HE REMINDED HER:** Of how gently and lovingly He had delivered them from Egypt, a house of bondage
 - a) He then reminded them of how Moses, Aaron, and Miriam (Law, priesthood, prophecy/ worship)
- V) **STILL:** While on the way to the land of promise the people sinned against Him
 - a) The false prophet Balaam counseled king Balak to introduce the men to pagan women
- VI) **BALAAM:** Is mentioned three times in the New Testament
 - a) 2 Pe 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of ^oBalaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness
 - b) Jude 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain have run greedily in the error of Balaam *for profit* and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
- VII) **KEY:** Balaam was greedy and because of this, he committed great sin and led others to sin also
 - a) Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a *stumbling block* before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit *sexual immorality*.
- VIII) **BALAAM KNEW:** That God was a righteous God, and that He would punish disobedience
 - a) He could not bring a curse against Israel, but Israel could bring judgment on herself
 - 1) His counsel was to introduce seduction, and in doing so God would judge them Himself
- IX) **GOD:** Had forbidden Israel from marrying heathens, to safeguard their relationship with Him
 - a) Ex 34:12-15 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.
 - b) Dt 7:2-3 Nor shall you make marriages with them (pagans). You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.
- X) **THIS:** Is what Jesus refers to about putting a stumbling block, introducing idolatry, sexual immorality

a) Num 25:1-3 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to *commit harlotry* with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

XI) ISRAEL: Was to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with God but they refused to do so
a) They pillaged the poor, were greedy, and practiced idolatry and God rightly was judging them

1) Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight—that you may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge

I) IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER: Micah is confessing that God is just in His judgment

a) He is agreeing that God is accurate in His complaint against Israel, but it causes him sorrow

II) V1 WOE IS ME: For I am like those who gather summer fruits like those who glean vintage grapes

a) He is grieved that he has to say these things, and overwhelmed that he must give this message

1) There is no joy in bringing a message of such *severe judgment*, and it tears him

III) V1 FOR: I am like those who gather summer fruits like those who glean vintage grapes

a) Grape vines represent that nation of Israel (Is 5:1-7)

IV) KEY: Micah is saying that he has looked for good fruit in the nation, but has found none

a) The vine is simply not producing any fruit and is ready for judgment

V) V2 THE FAITHFUL MAN: Has perished from the earth and there is no one upright among me

a) Because they have rejected God and His word, evil and violence is the norm

VI) THE FAITHFUL MAN: Is nowhere to be found, and there are no upright men anywhere

a) Sin had so permeated the nation that goodness no longer could be discovered

1) Ezek 22:29-30 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one

VII) V3 THAT: They may successfully do evil with both hands the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a

a) They are not satisfied doing evil half way, but are completely given over to it

1) They were doing evil for personal profit: selling out government and justice because of greed

VIII) NOTICE: The great man utters his evil desire so they scheme together

a) The great (elder, important, distinguished) man utters (pronounces) his evil desire

1) Public opinion has been formed, not by *righteous people* but by popular people

2) They work with the government and the judges, influencing their way of thinking

- IX) **TODAY:** This is seen in the public universities, authors, song writers, and celebrities
- a) Often biblical morality is ridiculed, and immorality is presented as love
 - 1) Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays VP Aaron Burr, lectured VP-elect Mike Pence about caring for people and respecting people's values, but several of his tweets are sexual, racist, and misogynistic
 - 2) Still, he says he has nothing to apologize for and people agree with him
- X) **V4 THE BEST OF THEM:** Is like a brier the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge
- a) The best writers, leaders, philosophers are like briars and thorns
 - 1) You need to avoid them because they injure you
- XI) **THEY PROVIDE NOTHING:** Of eternal value, and should not influence your life
- XII) **V4 THE DAY:** Of your watchman and your punishment comes Now shall be their perplexity
- a) Judgment is coming, and you will be confused that it actually is taking you
- I) **V5 DO NOT:** Trust in a friend do not put your confidence in a companion guard the doors of your
- a) This is a warning to be discerning in the midst of an evil time
 - 1) Some pretend to be friends, but cannot be trusted
 - 2) Some pretend to be helpers, guides: be it judges, politicians, or even relatives
 - 3) Be careful who you confide in, even with your own wife who may betray you
- II) **V6 FOR:** Son dishonors father daughter rises against her mother daughter-in-law against her
- a) Even close family ties are no guarantee that there is love and faithfulness to be found
- III) **IN HIS DAY:** If you said something against an official, you might be turned in by your own family
- a) Eccl 10:20 Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say
- IV) **THIS TOOK PLACE:** In Micah's day, and it will take place before Jesus returns
- a) Mt 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'
- V) **V7 THEREFORE:** I will look to the Lord I *will wait* for the God of my salvation My God will hear me
- a) Because of all this sin and lack of trustworthy people, my answer is trusting my God
- VI) **INSTEAD OF LOSING HOPE:** My hope is more concentrated on the One I can trust
- a) Man will let us down, by God never will so we trust in Him, and He keeps His promises
 - 1) Ps 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
 - 2) Ps 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

3) Heb 13:6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

VII) V8 DO NOT: Rejoice over me my enemy when I fall, I will arise when I sit in darkness the Lord will

a) I am not faultless, and I will fail at times but God will raise me up

1) Pr 24:16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

b) I may find myself unable to navigate my way, but God will light up my path before me

1) Ps 18:28 For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

VIII) V9 I WILL: Bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against Him until He pleads my case

a) Micah identifies with the people, and confesses his sins and shortcomings

1) The nation is being judged, and he is enduring the judgment of God along with the people

2) Though he had not sinned in the way they had, he still lives under the same conditions

IX) NOTICE: Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me He will bring me forth to the light

a) In their day, Assyria will come and take them captive

1) Ultimately, Micah will enjoy the light of God's freedom and walk freely in Him

X) V10 THEN SHE: Who is my enemy will see and shame will cover her who said to me where is the Lord

a) When the nation was taken captive, the enemies taunted them and asked where is your God

1) God is still God even when He seems to be distant

I) KEY: God will be with us, and He will ultimately triumph over His enemies

a) Ps 2:1-6 Why do the nations rage? Why do the people waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from this slavery." But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. For the LORD declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, my holy city."

II) V11-13 IN THE DAY: When your walls are to be built in that day the decree shall go far and wide

a) This pictures the distant future when they are once again in their land and Messiah reigns

1) People will stream in to worship the Lord, but that time is yet in the future

2) For some time, the land will be desolate because of their sin

III) V14-15 SHEPHERD YOUR PEOPLE: With Your staff the flock of Your heritage who dwell solitarily

a) Micah prays that the Lord will care for the people, feeding and nurturing them

IV) V15 AS IN: The days when you came out of the land of Egypt I will show them marvelous things

a) God delivered the people powerfully, with miracles, and will once again reveal His power

V) V16-17 THE NATIONS: Shall see and be ashamed of all their might they shall put their hand over their

a) When God brings them back in the last days, the world will be amazed and realize their weakness

1) Josh 2:10-11 (Rahab) For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

VI) V18-20 WHO IS: A God like You pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant

a) What God forgives as You do: Who pardons iniquity, covers transgressions, does not retain wrath, and delights in mercy

1) There is no God like our God

VII) HE SHOWS COMPASSION: And treads down our depravity and perversity

a) He casts our sins into the depths of the sea

1) Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

VIII) V20 YOU: Will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham which You have sworn to our fathers

a) Your promises to Jacob and Abraham are sure, and You will keep Your word to us

1) Heb 6:18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.