

2/2/25

- **[Title]** Welcome
 - The book of Micah
 - We are in week 1.
 - Micah is a prophet in the time before the Babylonian captivity and he is a prophet to the southern kingdom at the same time Isaiah was also writing his work to the people of the entire nation.
 - **[1] God's long suffering justice, is meant to safeguard us from sin and preserve us for his kingdom**
 - Micah 1:1-2:13
- Read Passage
 - **[2] Micah 1:9**

INTRO

- **[3]** The book of Micah is a prophecy to the people of Israel between 750 and 700 BC. This is before the Babylonian captivity and is a message of warning of judgement and hope for the coming Messiah.
 - As we are building in the next few weeks to the celebration of the arrival of the Messiah we are going to look at the words of Micah that tell of his coming and the thing that he will accomplish
- Studying scripture
 - **[4]** Context is incredibly important
 - Who its written to
 - What the author is intending to communicate
 - What the audience would have heard/taken away from the message
 - **[5]** Micah is broken up into 3 sections
 - Warning of judgement describing the sins of Israel
 - Message of Hope of the coming Messiah
 - Further warning of the coming destruction
- The passage in Micah has a lot of cultural references that would have been known/understood by its intended audience.
 - Us being 3,000 years removed and not familiar with the culture and landscape of the nation of Israel at the time requires a bit more explanation.

BODY

Chapter 1

[6] ¹"The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem."

- Identifying that Micah was from Moresheth specified who was writing
 - Micah was probably a common name and this told where he was from to make the mention of his name more specific because his ministry was probably located elsewhere (Likely Jerusalem)
- Identifying rulers of the time would have provided a period of time to properly date the time of this writing (750-700 BC-Same time as the prophet Isaiah)
- Samaria and Jerusalem were the 2 major cities in Israel and represented that these sins are describing all people in Israel

²"Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple."

- This message is meant to capture the attention of everyone, not just Israel

- They should hear the warning because they will all witness the destruction that will come in God's judgement of His people
- Micah pointing out that God is in his holy temple is pointing out God being in his heavenly dwelling
 - The people would have assumed that The presence was on the Mercy seat of the ark of the covenant in the temple in Jerusalem
 - His presence is not with them because of their abandoning of God

³" or behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth."

- God is going to trample these "high places" physically and spiritually
 - These were places of cultic worships – feeling the need to be physically closer to the heavens = closer to their gods
 - Israel was supposed to destroy these places when they occupied Canaan (Num 33:52/Deut 12:2-3;33:29). Instead they took them, used them and even made more of their own to even more gods (1 Kgs 12:32;14:23)

[7] ⁴" And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place."

- His presence will change even the topography of the land when he descends from heaven and it will forever be changed
 - Rather than cleanse the land of idol worship, Israel embraced it.
 - By doing so they jeopardized their union with God and he removed his presence from them as they had rejected him already
 - For His presence to return things drastically had to change
 - All other places of worship needed to be leveled and bow in submission to God, the ruler of all.
 - As drastic as making mountains into puddles of wax
 - Since the people were unwilling to do so, God will do it himself, because they are still his chosen people.

⁵" All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel.

What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria?

And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?"

- Jacob's name was changed to Israel (gen 32:28) as he achieved God's will in the promise for God's covenant with Abraham.
 - The people, now in sin, act as Jacob (before the blessing) and are associated as people outside of God's will
- Transgression = apostasy – What are the results of when God's people abandon him? They become like Samaria
 - Worship other gods – Are not of pure bloodline – Reject God's leadership and His appointed leaders (Prophets and kings) – They oppose God
- Jerusalem is one of the High places – set as a consecration of worship to God but because of the corruption of it will be one of the high places that will fall under his judgement.

⁶" Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour down her stones into the valley and uncover her foundations."

- Open country = a pile of garbage
- Samaria was known for the vineyards that were outside the city in the hillside (iconic)
 - In God's judgement it will be crushed and rendered completely useless
 - Using the stones that are the foundation of every building, will be upheaved and destroyed. The foundations will be scattered (fulfilled in 722 BC – destroyed by the Assyrians)

[8] ⁷" All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste,"

- Carved images = idols

- Israel became profitable when engaging in idol worship (Regarded as adultery by God) lots of money came as offerings to these pagan gods in their temples.
 - They used the funds to make idols by the temples for the worshipers
- for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return."
 - They money earned was given to a prostitute (Israel that is guilty of adultery against God).
 - The soldiers that will plunder the city would take their idols and precious things given as offerings and they will use them to pay for prostitutes
 - Israel has seen the example of what it looks like to abandon God (Samaria) and they followed in their footsteps
 - The example will be made an example of. They will be the first to be laid to waste
 - They want to act like prostitutes then everything they have and that has been given to other gods will be given to prostitutes

8-9 "For this I will lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, and mourning like the ostriches. For her wound is incurable, and it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem."

- God will do this with sorrow, not joy or satisfaction. Their apostasy cannot be redeemed, so they will be destroyed (Prophet Jonah – Ninevah = destruction with out repentance. The time of repentance is over)
 - The infection of their apostasy is now encroaching on Judah (Kingdom around Jerusalem) and God aims to prevent His people from falling into the same incurable condition.
 - His judgement is Him protecting His people

[9] 10" Tell it not in Gath; weep not at all; in Beth-le-aphrah roll yourselves in the dust."

- Gath = play on words. Similar pronunciation to the Hebrew word 'tell' = do not tell 'tell'
 - Was the capitol city of the Philistines (Birthplace of Goliath – 1 Sam 17:4)
 - Do not weep or tell them because the Philistines will celebrate the fall of Israel
 - For Israel it is protection, to the outside world it is destruction/defeat
- Beth-le-aphrah – The name means 'house of dust'
 - Being covered in dust (intentionally) was a sign of mourning
 - They should mourn the inevitable fate that is coming.

11" Pass on your way, inhabitants of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; the inhabitants of Zaanan do not come out; the lamentation of Beth-ezel shall take away from you its standing place."

- Shaphir – this does not concern you. The shame they bear in nakedness is symbolic of their shame in rejecting God – They have no divine protection – they are completely exposed
- Zaanan – Stay out of the way this also does not concern you
- Beth-ezel - You will no longer benefit from Israel's adultery against God

12" For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously for good, because disaster has come down from the Lord to the gate of Jerusalem."

- Maroth (meaning bitterness) a city in the land of Judah
 - Wait anxiously while Jerusalem will be wrecked but looking forward it will also be restored and they will be witnesses to it
 - This anxious waiting and witness to destruction should inspire change in them
 - Working salvation with fear and trembling – Phil 2:12)

[10] 13" Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish; it was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel."

- Lachish was known for their production of fine race horses.
 - Harnessing them was God telling them to hold them dear because when judgement comes it will be laid to waste
 - They were like Maroth (30 miles southwest of Jerusalem and 15 miles west of Hebron) They would be first hand witnesses to the judgement falling on Jerusalem
- Lachish was where the idolatrous practices started that are now affecting Jerusalem.
 - It was their transgression that is the reason that Israel is now facing judgement.

- If this judgement is protection for Israel, God is warning them that he has not forgotten that this is their fault and judgement is coming for them too

¹⁴" Therefore you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-gath;
the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel."

- Giving gifts is a penance
 - A practice to attempt to please those that are about to invade and destroy
 - This destruction is coming under the will of God, their penance is an attempt to please God before the vessel of his judgement comes
 - They are giving penance of the wealth that they have built and gained through idol worship
 - They are to give to the region that Micah is from and the city of the philistines
 - Giving to those that have remained faithful to God and those that are already far from him
- Houses of Achzib – first line of defense against invading Assyria
 - The kings of Israel would likely trust them to stop the invasion or accurately represent the threat that they are facing by coming enemies
 - Their trust would be misplaced in a deceptive sense of security and they will fall

¹⁵" I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah;
the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.

- Conqueror brought to Mareshah – This is the Assyrian King Sennacherib
 - He will come against them and defeat them
 - Southwest most point from Jerusalem
 - Sign that God's judgement is at the door of Jerusalem and it is only a matter of time before they are destroyed
- Adullam – The caves where David hid from Saul (1 Sam 22:1)
 - Israel will flee to this place when God's judgement will come
 - They will flee in fear – they will hide in retreat from the Assyrian armies

[11] ¹⁶"Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight;
make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile."

- Another sign of mourning for the people associated with shame
 - They will mourn the losses and bear the shame for their actions that brought God's judgement on themselves
 - This is why the young men were so brutally punished for attempting to make Elijah ashamed because of his appearance and a challenge to his authority (2 Kgs 2:23-25)

Chapter 2

[12] ¹" Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds!
When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand."

- Woe to those – This is a divine threat – Prophetic oracle of divine threat of judgement
 - They would lie in bed devising evil plots/plans – they are consumed by wickedness
 - Their wickedness robs them of sleep in their desire to fulfill it
 - With opportunity (morning dawns) they engage in their evil plans without hesitation
 - Power of their hands – these are the wealthy and powerful
 - Using their resources to oppress others

²"They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away;
they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance."

- They steal because they want what they do not yet possess
 - They have the means to satisfy this sinful desire so they utilize it without hesitation
- They oppress them by leveraging their possessions against their owners

- Force the debt upon them and rob them of their estate as payment or collateral

³ "Therefore thus says the Lord: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster."

- Those who are unified with destruction (Family of wickedness) – will experience destruction
 - The burden is like the yoke of an oxen around their necks – it is their burden to bear that they cannot escape
- Walking haughtily – Demeanor of pride
 - They have created this posture by acting as if they are better than others
 - This will be stripped from them
 - They will not escape their humiliation in the destruction that awaits them.

[13] ⁴ "In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you and moan bitterly, and say, 'We are utterly ruined; he changes the portion of my people; how he removes it from me! To an apostate he allots our fields.'"

- Taunt song is a proverb
 - One that will make them moan bitterly is a derogatory chat against the oppressors/wicked as an object of scorn and ridicule
- He uses what they have spent their lives building to shame them
 - He will take everything from them – what was seen as inheritance of the Jews (The land of Israel)
 - Those who do not honor God will receive what God gave to them – Would rather his enemies have that blessing than the unfaithful

⁵ "Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the Lord."

- Casting the line was a tool that was used to measure plots of land
 - Casting of lots was a way to divide the country for the 12 tribes (Josh 14:2/15:1/16:1/17:1)
 - The assembly of the Lord was the nation of Israel

[14] ⁶ "Do not preach'—thus they preach—'one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.'"

- False prophets were discouraging Micah not to write such harsh words to the nation
 - They were preaching to Micah telling him not to preach (hypocrisy)
 - Isaiah found the same opposition (Isa 30:10)
- They did not believe that God would do all the things that Micah was claiming

⁷ "Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the Lord grown impatient? Are these his deeds?

Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?

- Should this be said – Do you really require this warning? They should know the deeds they have done and the consequences of their actions
 - Has the Lord not been gracious and Lord suffering as they live in sin
 - Is God responsible for their sin – obviously not – which is why he brings judgement
- To those that are righteous, the words of a true prophet are beneficial they tell of justice and restoration through judgement. To the wicked they are destructive. Implying these prophets that encourage him not to speak are wicked

⁸ "But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war."

- Israel has positioned themselves as God's enemy
 - People have entered the land that God has promised thinking that they are safe, but these evil men prey upon these unsuspecting victims
- They are taking advantage of the safety that God provides and exploit it for their own wicked gains.
 - This is a declaration of War against God

[15] ⁹ "The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever."

- The actions of treachery committed by the people extended to the abuse of women
 - This would have had deep and lasting impacts on their children having been witness to this abuse of their mothers
 - Might have been forced to sell their children into slavery because they couldn't afford to continue to care for them and have no home for them

¹⁰ "Arise and go, for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction."

- This land is now condemned to face the wrath of God
 - Micah is commanding them to flee this place because this place is no longer a place to find refuge
 - Destruction is the only thing the future holds

¹¹ "If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, 'I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,' he would be the preacher for this people!"

- The people that have previously come to teach them have only taught them things to push them further into their idolatry and debauchery (2 Tim 4:3)
 - The Israelites have no one teaching them the ways of the Lord.
 - Even those in the temple
 - It is only Isaiah and Micah and the people are rejecting them

[16] ¹² "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men."

- Prophecy of Hope
 - Those that are faithful to Yahweh, that survive the judgement that is to fall, God will gather them together and protect them – Like a Shepherd does for his sheep
 - This gathering of the sheep would be a noisy commotion
 - Commotion of thanksgiving and praise because they have been protected through the destruction

¹³ "He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the Lord at their head."

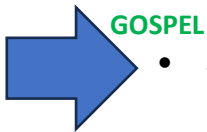
- This is the Messiah
 - He will act as a shepherd to the people of Israel
 - Common motif in the OT (Isa 40:11/Ezek 34:5, 8, 12, 23/Zech 11 – John 10)
 - He will lead them out of the enclosure that holds them captive into greener pastures
 - The Messiah will be the ruler of Israel
 - That is the Lord will be their leader

[17] Israel had really ventured far from the standards of righteousness that God intended for them.

- They were oppressing the weak and the poor.
- They were worshipping other gods
- Had abandoned any form of Yahweh's leading or guidance as identifiers of them as his people.
- The purpose of the law was to be a mirror for the people to know the character and nature of God and see how much they needed salvation from Him because they had fallen so short of righteousness.
 - This was not an excuse or a pass for them not to walk in his standards.
 - It was not a high and lofty goal so they can look at it and think well I'll never be perfect so why even try.
 - They were to hold to God's standard so that they were clearly identified as God's chosen people among the nations.

- Israel has not only missed the mark and fallen short they have lived and based their life in an abandonment of this standard.
 - They have abandoned God all together
 - It's obvious in the way that they worshiped the pagan Gods of Assyria.
 - Compromising his commands and tolerating the worship of others tempting the people to follow these God's as well
 - Practically they no longer treated each other as God's chosen people.
 - Instead they acted like the world exploiting others for their own gain, and oppressing those that they had the means and the ability to do so.
- This is horrendous and obviously God is not going to tolerate them doing these things while they bear his name and claim his leadership and blessings.
 - God is merciful, gracious, loving and completely and righteously just
 - **[18]** A disease left untreated only gets worse, not better
 - God in his justice is going to give them the consequences that are equal in measure to their insurrection and transgressions
 - Because he is fully just
 - God is doing this so that he might save them from the infection of sin that is destroying them as a nation and separating them from himself.
 - 1:1-4 - His presence is not with them anymore because they are so far from him.
- Its pretty easy though for us to look at passages like this of God dishing out consequences and think "that's right play stupid games get stupid prizes right. Don't play games with God"
 - The truth of the matter is the sins that they are guilty of was not an overnight change, go to bed children of God and wake up seeking pagan idols
 - Casting crowns – Slow fade, give yourself away, black and white – grey
- **[19]** Sin is a slow fade
 - It begins with indifference – Is it really that big of a deal
 - The Israelites when they came to Canaan God commanded them to destroy the pagan places of worship
 - The Israelites might have thought why does it matter they're all the way up there.
 - We do this too – homosexuality, pornography, anger, slander
 - Is it really that big of a deal? Everyone struggles with it. Or it may be a problem over there but not in my house
 - **[20]** It moves from indifference to tolerance - It's okay as long as it stays over there
 - Israelites living in the land tolerated the pagans living among them and worshiping their Gods in the promised land
 - It was a command they didn't understand, so they chose not to follow it
 - They were going to take part but we are to love them right? We won't participate but we won't drive them out
 - We do the same we tolerate sinfulness because we would never participate in it. We will reject the practice, love the sinner hate the sin right?
 - Female Pastors – Paul obviously rejected it but we don't understand why so were not going to hold to it.
 - **[21]** Tolerance moves to compromise – Doubt the God knows what he is talking about

- Israel didn't follow God's command and continued exposure to the pagan practices brought in the thought that it can't be all that bad.
 - These people seem nice. Why would God not allow this
- Today, its looking at homosexual couples and thinking they seem really nice, they really do love each other why wouldn't God bless them.
- **[22]** Compromise moves to Dabble – can it really be that bad, I will see for myself
 - The Israelites began engaging in these practices severing their union with a jealous and Holy God
 - God then began to separate himself from them as they separated themselves from Him
 - We not only compromise on the truth we will engage in them
 - We go to pride celebrations and festivals.
 - We justify our sin because engaging in it validates us, gives us the acceptance we have been looking for or we find some sort of enjoyment in it
- **[23]** Dabbling moves to acceptance – this is not bad, God doesn't know what he is talking about
- Acceptance moves to rebellion – What else has God been wrong about what other things should be rejected from God that I don't like
- Rebellion as we see in Micah's warning moves to destruction
 - God pouring out justice on the lives that are lost to wickedness
 - Many times it is just the natural consequences of our actions or natural consequences of a life removed from the presence of God
 - Which means there is no protection, no hope, and nothing to gain – the world just becomes this dog-eat-dog world that we have to step on others to get ahead.



- Sin does not have to be our end.
 - **[24]** **God's long suffering justice, is meant to safeguard us from sin and preserve us for his kingdom**
 - God came down in human flesh to pay the price for our ransom to sufficiently satisfy the wrath of God and remove the consequences from us
 - Like a shepherd leading a flock
 - We have been delivered that sin will not reign in our mortal bodies, and the Holy Spirit of God might be at work within us.
 - He is our salvation
- We do not give in to the slow fade because we are not a slave to it but are enlisted in service to the king of kings and Lord of Lords
 - We can take the prophets Micah's words to heart to know that this is the warning that should be applied to all of us.
 - But thank you God those that call upon him name shall be saved.
 - It also grants us an opportunity to know how to intervene. In our own lives, and in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - It is encouragement to see all that we have been saved from through the grace of God.

APPLICATION

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

COMMUNION