

Who Is A God Like You

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. **Slide2 Pray at the Pole:** tomorrow noon-12:30pm.

II. Slide3 **Intro:** *Who Is A God Like You*

A. *Remember* (intro): **Layout of book:** 3 parts/cycles. See ch's. 1,3,6 start with *Hear...*

1. 1/3 of Micah exposes his country men's **sins**.
2. 1/3 pictures the **punishment** God is about to send.
3. **Final 3rd** holds out the **Hope of restoration** once that discipline has ended.

B. *Remember:* **Micah** was a contemporary of **Hosea** up Nrth. And **Isaiah** in Jerusalem.

1. **Micah** was a *mini-Isaiah*, both addressed *same people/same problems*.
2. The prophet Micah identified himself by his hometown, called **Moresbeth Gath**, near the border of **Philistia** and **Judah**.
 - a) *Dwelling in a largely agricultural part of the country*, Micah lived outside the governmental centers of power in his nation, leading to his strong concern for the lowly and less fortunate of society - *the lame, the outcasts, & the afflicted*.

C. **The first 7 verses** of this chapter are *an individual lament psalm*.

1. It moves from complaint **to** confidence.

D. **Outline:** *Supreme In Judgment. Supreme In Deliverance. Supreme In Pastoral Care. Supreme In Forgiveness.*

E. **Pray:** *The Lord is not slow to fulfill **his promise** as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that **all** should reach **repentance**.* 2 Pet.3:9

III. Slide4 **SUPREME IN JUDGMENT (1-7) READ**

A. (1) **Woe is me** - A rarely used cry of lament (only other occurrence, Job 10:15).

- B. The summer fruit has been gathered - Micah compares his discouragement with the state of Israel to the disappointment experienced by the fruit pickers and grape gatherers at the end of a poor harvest (see Micah 6:15).
- C. (3) They were experts in evil.
- D. (5,6) No hope in man, only hope in the Lord (7).
- E. (7) We can make the same 3 decisions as Micah did: I will look. I will wait. I will pray

IV. Slide5/6 SUPREME IN DELIVERANCE (8-13; 15-17) READ

- A. (8-10) The city of Zion speaks in vs.8-10 as one who has been defeated by her enemies yet is confident of restoration.
1. The city warns its enemies against premature celebration. Even though Jerusalem has fallen, it will be rebuilt.
- B. (8) When I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me -
1. God lifts up those who fall, gives light to those who are in darkness.
 2. I heard a new song by Thunderstorm Artis? Fall down 7 x's, Stand up 8. From Prov.24:16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again.
 3. (9) Micah speaking here. Until He pleads my case - at salvation the Lord changes from being the Prosecuting Attorney against you, to being your Defense Attorney.
- C. (10-13) One day, the Lord will also defeat all of our enemies also.

V. Slide7 SUPREME IN PASTORAL CARE (14) READ

- A. Micah asked the Lord to restore and provide for His people as a shepherd cares for his flock.
1. The staff would be a rod of blessing, not of judgment.
 2. Micah prayed that God's people, then isolated like sheep in a forest, would enjoy prosperity and peace as they had in Bashan and Gilead in former times.

VI. Slide8 SUPREME IN FORGIVENESS (18-20) READ

- A. Micah, What's your final word on this? *Who is a God like You?*
- B. (18) **Who is a God like you?** – play on words, Micah's name (*consonants*; who is like the Lord).
- C. (18b) He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in **steadfast love**.
1. **God's** soul delights in His own **Son**, **yet** he would seem to delight more in **steadfast love**; for when **the Father** met w/Him and **us** on Calvary, **The Father** said, "Thou shall die, and they shall live!" (pause)
[hesed = **steadfast love/loyal love/mercy**]
 - a) **Mercy** is one of the *spiritual bridges* God has built, **so that** He could **relate** to you and me. **And mercy** is *a bridge* you and I must build, **if** we are going to **relate lovingly to others**.
- D. (18,19) Back in Ex.34:6,7 we have *the most important verse* in the bible! How can we know that? because it is repeated some **20+ x's**.
1. **Slide9a** The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7 keeping** steadfast love for thousands (or to the thousandth generation), **forgiving** (to lift or carry) **iniquity & transgression & sin** (or *wickedness, rebellion & sin*; 3 categories of unrighteousness).
 - a) **Transgression** (rebellion) is the most defiant of sins.
Slide9b John Mackay defines it as a "*willful violation of the terms of the covenant, involving not merely disobeying a rule or regulation, but betraying the relationship one has with the covenant King.*"
- E. (19) **You will cast all our sins into the **depth** of the sea.** [cast = *hurl, throw forcefully*]
1. Same word is used in Jonah 2:3 *For you **cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.***
 2. **Slide10/11** Deepest place **Mariana Trench** (aprox 7mi. deep), *For comparison: if **Mount Everest** were dropped into the trench at this point, its peak would still be over 1.2 miles under water.*

a) **Subduction/tectonic plates.** Trash carried to *the bottom*, carried into the **crust** of the earth to be **burned up**, *never to be seen again*.

F. **Slide12 Cast - Tashlikh** (Hebrew: תשליך "cast off")

1. **Once a year** on the afternoon of *Rosh HaShanah* (New Year) the orthodox Jew goes to the sea & symbolically empties their pockets of his sins into the water, while he recites vs.18-20. [Who will cast? God will]
2. **You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea** - to which **Corrie Ten Boom** said, *then God put up a No Fishing sign*

G. **Slide13 Let's rehearse this:** When we **come** to **Him**. **And confess** our sins. He **pardons** us. He puts our sins **underfoot** like a defeated enemy. He **hurls** them into the depths of the sea. **And** they are **seen no more**.

H. **What is that one sin** tonight you would like to know for sure is not only buried, but burnt up, *never to be seen again*? [He **WILL** cast it into the depths of the sea]

1. Years ago I was able to go up to Alaska fishing with some friends. We were motoring out to our spot to fish when we ran into a pod of killer whales. We took off again & my hat flew off, landing on top of the water. I watched it just float there, *until it didn't*. Never to be seen again.

I. In the hymn *It is well with my Soul* (3rd stanza) H.G. Spafford :

My sin – oh the bliss of that glorious thought!
 my sin – not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, oh my soul!

J. Keywords: judgment, deliverance, forgiveness.