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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Micah 7.

(2014)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

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Micah 7.

Topics.

- No one is upright among mankind; the godly have perished from the earth.
- The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge.
- A man's enemies are the men of his own house.
- A day for building Jerusalem's walls and extending her borders.
- The earth will be desolate.
- Nations shall see the restoration of Jerusalem and fear the LORD.
- God does not retain anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

INTRODUCTION: Micah prophesied in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (about 750–700 B.C.), at about the same time as Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, and Micah denounced the wealthy, who were oppressing the poor, and warned of impending judgment. The Northern Kingdom actually fell during Micah's ministry, in 722, and Judah almost fell in 701 (2 Kings 18–20).

The book contains three sections, which alternate between words of warning and messages of hope. Micah told of a day when there would be peace among all nations, who would then be able to beat their swords into plowshares (4:3), and of a royal deliverer who would save Israel from all her enemies. This deliverer would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

No One is upright among Mankind, the Godly have Perished from the Earth.

Micah 7:1-2 ----- ¹Woe is me! (Micah) for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit. ²The godly has perished from the earth and there is no one upright among mankind they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net.

The primary focus is now upon the nations of Judah and Israel, but also embraces the entire earth. Micah likens Judah and Israel to a tree or vine that has been totally plucked of all its fruit the tree and the vine are stripped bare of anything to nourish.

Micah is devastated, because he would love to see Israel and Judah flourishing before God, but like the tree and the vine there is nothing left in the nations that even resembles or looks anything like God's will or His character. The following verses show Israel and Judah have become so grossly corrupt there is no goodness toward God left amongst them.

The godly have perished from the earth: refers to the nation of Judah and Israel, at this time they are the only two nations that God choose to call His people. Even in this they have fallen far short of God's calling. It was never God's perfect plan that Israel would divide into two individual nations. One of the reasons the LORD used Babylon to take them into captivity for seventy years was to give Him time to mould and shape them into one untied nation called Israel.

There is no one upright among mankind: refers to the Gentile nations (those who are not Jewish or Hebrews).

They all lie in wait for blood and each hunt the other with a net: refers to Judah, Israel and all other nations.

They all hunt each other with a net: means the leaders of governments and religious leaders of Judah and Israel use each other for their own personal gain, through political and religious lies and deceit.

The Best of them is Like a Brier, the Most Upright of them a Thorn Hedge.

Micah 7:3-4 ----- ³Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. ⁴The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen of your punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand.

Micah says not only is every one evil, they have actually learnt to be good at it, the rulers, leaders and the judges all ask for bribes to satisfy their own selfish desires. The great leaders who have tremendous authority and influence over multitudes work out their evil plans together with the rulers, the judges and the rich.

They plot how through their power and government they can manipulate laws that will force and deceive their followers and the congregations of Judah and Israel into giving and doing more so they (the leaders) will have greater wealth and become even more powerful. Micah says, even the best leader is dangerous, deceptive, and grossly corrupt only looking for ways they can use the people to satisfy their own selfish gain.

The day of your watchmen: refers to, the priest and prophets of Judah and Israel, because of their gross wickedness God is about to bring confusion and punishment upon them.

NOTICE.

The meaning of the word evil in this context is not about personal sin or wrong thoughts. Evil applies to humans who deliberately oppress others for their own gain or in some way deliberately cause harm to others physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually to satisfy their own lust for power and greed for riches and wealth etc.

A man's Enemies are the Men of his Own House.

Micah 7:5-7 ----- ⁵Put no trust in a neighbour; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms; ⁶for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; *a man's enemies are the men of his own house.* ⁷But as for me (Micah) I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

The people have become so corrupt they can't even trust those who appear to be their friends or the woman they are sleeping with; even children disrespect their own parents and the relatives treat each other as enemies. Micah lives amongst a crooked and wicked nation, he sees all that is wrong in the world and in the religious system of his day, but his faith is such that it is not dependant on anything or anyone around him. Micah's faith is so solid he does not need others to support him, he knows his God, and that God hears him and is coming to save him, so amongst all the horror and evil he simply takes the attitude to look to God and wait for that day.

Micah understands He will Return and See the Restoration of Jerusalem.

Micah 7:8-10 ----- ⁸Rejoice not over me (Judah) O my enemy when I fall I shall rise when I sit in darkness the LORD will be a light to me. ⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He (the LORD) will bring me out to the light I shall look upon his vindication ¹⁰Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look upon her; now she will be trampled down like the mire of the streets.

By prophecy Micah speaks as the collective voice of Judah, he tells their enemies not to rejoice over Judah when they fall and sit in darkness bearing the shame of their sin. Because the LORD will bring them out again in light and all Israel's enemies will see it, then all who scorned and mocked Israel will be trampled down.

When I fall: refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and its inhabitants being taken into captivity to Babylon for seventy years.

When I sit in darkness the LORD will be a light to me: refers to Judah's seventy years in Babylonian captivity.

Until the LORD pleads my cause: refers to the prophets Ezra, Nehemiah and Cyrus the king of Persia.

Executes judgment: refers to Cyrus the King of Persia conquering Babylon.

Will bring me out to the light: refers to Israel returning to Jerusalem after their seventy years in captivity to Babylon.

Micah will look upon the LORD'S vindication: refers to the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple.

Israel's enemies will be trampled down: refers to Media Persia conquering Babylon and all nations who scorned and mocked Israel while they were sitting in darkness (Babylonian captivity). Micah and his son Mattaniah both returned to Jerusalem (Neh. 12:35, 41).

A Day for Building Jerusalem's Walls and extending her Borders.

Micah 7:11-12 ----- ¹¹a day for the building of your walls! (of Jerusalem) in that day the boundary shall be far extended (of Jerusalem) ¹²in that day they will come to you, (Jerusalem) from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the river, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

Micah in his vision sees people from afar coming to Jerusalem. Micah is now prophesying a future event yet to happen. This happened after Israel's seventy year captivity in Babylon, Judah and Israel under Ezra and Nehemiah returned to rebuild Jerusalem and its walls, and multitudes of Jews that had scattered into the surrounding nations because of the invasion of Assyria and Babylon returned to the city of Jerusalem.

The Earth will be Desolate.

Micah 7:13-15 ----- ¹³but the earth will be desolate (great famine and destruction) because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their deeds. ¹⁴shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land (Carmel in KJV); let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old. ¹⁵as in the days when you (Israel) came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvellous things.

The earth: in this context refers to the land of Judah and the land of Israel; it laid waste for seventy years so wild animals multiplied in it.

Bashan: means smooth fertile land, celebrated for its cattle its breed of sheep and for its oak trees, it was the broad, fertile region E of the Sea of Galilee in Samaria.

Carmel: means garden, it is often used as an illustration of beauty and fruitfulness, because of lush tree cover, but it's withering became symbolic of destruction and desolation. South of Carmel lies the fruitful plain of Sharon and NE of it flows the river Kishon through the Plain of Esdraelon. Elisha visited Carmel and at Carmel Elijah stood against eight-hundred and fifty heathen prophets and defeated them, Mount Carmel is a prominent mountain in Israel.

Gilead: the name is used to indicate Israel's possession of the Jordan River. It extended from the lower end of the Sea of Galilee to the northern end of the Dead Sea, and from the Jordan Eastward to the desert, a plateau of some 2,000 feet

elevation. At the time of Moses it was a lush region with goodly forests rich grazing, lands, and abundant moisture. A scenic gorge of the noted brook called Jabbok, running into the Jordan divided it. When Canaan was allocated to the Israelites, Gilead fell to the Reubenites, Gadites and to half the Tribe of Manasseh. Balm made Gilead famous because of its curative power, it was exported to Tyre and the Ishmaelites carried Balm to Egypt. Gilead's land was on the east side of the River Jordan. Gilead is Jordan Today and used to belong to Israel, it is part of the Promised Land.

Micah is told to shepherd the people: the LORD tells Micah to shepherd the people and feed them like they were shepherded when they came out of Egypt, then tells Micah God will do marvelous things. Micah pictures the LORD'S faithful people dwelling alone in a beautiful garden, but the garden is surrounded by forest, a forest stops light and getting to a garden so very little grows, in this context the forest is probably a symbol of confusion, wickedness and their enemies.

I will show them marvellous things: most likely refers to Cyrus the king of Persia who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and carried him by the right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon and after his great victory he gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again).

Not only had God broken the burden and oppression of Israel and Judah and crushed all their enemies, but multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. Added to this when the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory: -

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

Nations shall see the Restoration of Jerusalem and Fear the LORD.

Micah 7:16-17 ----- ¹⁶the nations shall see (the restoration of Jerusalem) and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf; ¹⁷they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

After Israel's seventy year captivity in Babylon, nations saw the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the city, its walls, the Temple and the Jewish houses that were destroyed by Babylon. Imagine the wonder, surrounding nations would have felt, they would have thought Israel was destroyed as a people forever, they had been scattered throughout the land and Jerusalem and its pasture lands had laid waste for seventy years.

God does not Retain Anger Forever, because he Delights in Steadfast Love.

Micah 7:18-20 ----- ¹⁸who is a God like you pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? (Judah and Israel) he does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹he will again have compassion on us (Judah) he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰you will show faithfulness to Jacob (Israel) and steadfast love to Abraham, (Israel) as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Sins that permeated the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem: following is a list of sins that permeated the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem throughout their generations.

The following sins eventually became like a contagious virus running rampant throughout the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. They defiled God's Holy name and their own land by their lifestyle, deeds and actions. They committed gross idolatry and Baal altars were set up throughout their land. They worshipped the goddess of love and fertility (her worship was sexually indecent).

Worse than this they worshipped Moloch and sacrificed their sons to him in the Hinnom valley. They worshipped a golden calf at a religious centre at Dan and at a religious centre at Bethel. Altars were set up in the temple court for planetary worship and the worship of the host of heaven (i.e., the sun, moon and stars) and worship of idols and altars had been built under shady trees on their hills throughout their land.

Added to this innocent people were killed and cheated out of justice, leaders oppressed others for their own selfish gain and drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality was rampant. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor and instead of relieving their economic distress they devised new means of depriving them of their property. Is it any wonder the LORD compares Israel's ways to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity? (Ezek. 36:17) and poured out His wrath upon Judah, Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

The lesson for today: by wicked behaviour Israel defiled the name of God which resulted in the surrounding nations mocking and despising God. This shines a light on the following truth: the behaviour of everyone who confesses the name of God and Christ His Son will determine to some extent whether outsiders are drawn to God or to despise Him. We are not witnesses to the Lord only when we are sharing our faith with another person our entire life is a witness to our faith and of God it can be a good witness or a bad witness.

The LORD will have compassion and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea: how beautiful is this, knowing the gross sin of Israel, God, because He would rather love than remain in anger, will tread all Israel's rottenness under His foot, and cast their past rebellion and gross wickedness out of His eternal mind. This is absolutely comforting to anyone who may have taken the wrong path.

There is no sin that stops a person finding or returning to God that is bigger than His love, His forgiveness and His grace. It is not sin that will separate us from God forever, but our conscious choice to reject him. Faith is not about living a life without sin, rather it is returning to God in repentance and heart felt sorrow when we do and forsaking anything that dishonours God and brings a bad testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle John says: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

If it was possible for us to attain to a life completely free of sin Christ died for no reason. Christ didn't die so we could attain to the glorious state of sinlessness, but because we couldn't. This is why Paul wrote: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephes. 2:8).

NOTE.

When reading Micah it is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

Ponder the following prophetic words of Micah for a moment: -

- The earth is full of war, and each takes advantage of the other by deceit and lies (v2).
- Presidents and judges take bribes, rulers utter the evil desire and no one can be trusted. (v3-5).
- The day of punishment, has come. (v4).
- The LORD will bring the faithful out to the light and they will look upon His vindication. (v9).
- Shame will cover those who said "Where is the LORD your God?" (v10).
- Nations will come to Jerusalem from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from the seas and the mountains. (v12).

- The earth will be full of destruction because of the deeds of its inhabitants. (v13).
- The LORD will show the inhabitants of the earth marvellous things. (v15).
- Nations will turn in dread to the LORD and be in fear of Him. (v17).
- The LORD will show faithfulness to Israel as He has sworn to Abraham and their fathers from the days of old. (v19).

Within these prophetic words of Micah there appears to be a local application of Micah's prophecy for Israel and Judah at that time and an underlying message that transcends the era of Micah and embraces a far greater event that is still to come upon the entire earth in a future age. Micah says that there will be very little godliness remaining on the earth, wars, fighting's and deceit will not only be rampant, but people will have become very skilled at deceiving others. He predicts there will be extreme famines and that the human population will live in fear of each other even in their own towns and neighbourhood, and children living in the age Micah has in vision will be extremely rebellious (Micah 7:2-6). With this in mind consider the following seven points: -

1. Today companies pay thousands of dollars to professions physiologist to design TV commercials that are full of lies and cleaver snippets of deception to entice, adults, teenagers and even 4-5 year old children around the world into buying a particular product, simply so some company can make more profit. Governments use the global media to cunningly and subtlety manipulate the consciousness of nations so the population will agree with their deceptive polices that even allow a nation to go to war based on multitudes of lies.
2. Foods are made full of chemicals, artificial additives and sugars regardless of their effect on the human body, profit, is more important to them than a person's health.
3. Banks, companies, businesses will almost go to any length of lie to deceive their customers into borrowing more, spending more or buying more, and a vast majority of the world is so deceived they considered it good business.
4. We have countries, governments, nations and individual groups going to war and killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people simply so someone or some nation can gain more power, more control and more wealth.
5. People in high positions of authority and influence take bribes and cheat people out of what is right simply to enlarge their own bank account or give them greater power.
6. No-one today can trust their neighbour we all lock our house and car. There has to be security bars over windows and doors before those inside can feel safe and many insurance companies won't pay out unless the entry doors have a dead lock fitted and every window has a keyed lock on it.
7. A great multitude of today's children and teenagers have no respect for the older in age, and will even beat them simply to rob a few dollars from their purse. We live in a generation that lives by the motto "Me first", in fact it has even gone past that to a consciousness of "I deserve", they live with a sense of entitlement and thus have very little consideration for others.

It is very likely we are entering the ultimate and corrupt age that is contained within Micah's prophecy to Israel and Judah especially when the following words of Micah are considered, "Jerusalem will be rebuilt and her boundaries will far exceed the city of Jerusalem and people from Assyria and Egypt will come to Jerusalem and multitudes from the sea and from land will go up to the city" (Micah 7:11-12). With these prophetic words of Micah in mind consider the following prophetic words of Isaiah when speaking of God's future Kingdom: -

- In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to the Egyptians) there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. ²⁴In that day Israel will be

the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance." (Isaiah 19:23-24).

Micah asks the LORD to shepherd his people and says, Jerusalem will be restored and nations will be ashamed and in fear of the LORD (Micah 7:14-17). We have seen how Micah prophecy applies to the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the city and the Temple after Israel's seventy year captivity in Babylon, but Micah's message also carries with it an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Overview of the book of Micah: Micah warns Judah of the coming invasion of Babylon and though his message is primarily directed to Judah, it often and majestically transcends time to echo the birth of Jesus, the restoration of Jerusalem and the rule of Christ when he returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace during his glorious millennial reign on earth.

FOOTNOTE: since anger is listed in the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:18) some find it difficult to understand God being angry, but consider the following: in 2011 on a national T.V. News program a lady who was well into her retirement years was filmed racing across the street with no fear for her own life armed only with a handbag to stop five men with baseball bats robbing a jewellery store (they all fled). This brave and courageous woman had such a strong love for justice and what was right that it overrode any concern for her own life. When she saw these five men robbing the store she was so angry at the injustice of it and the fact some honest hard working person was being burgled her anger drove her to protect his store without any thought for her own safety.

This is righteous anger, meaning that it is anger against injustice and anger motivated by the passion to protect others from harm, in contrast to anger that is motivated from pride and self being offended in some manner. God seeing the gross corruption amongst the people of Israel (especially the leaders) is angry because His people are destroying themselves and their future generations for all eternity by their corruptions. The expression "God is angry" is the same as saying, "God is enormously grieved because His own people who should be blessed are not only bringing judgment upon themselves by their gross wickedness but are also leading their future generations into spiritual darkness and eternal destruction and by their wicked behaviour turning secular nations against God instead of toward Him.

It is very much like a father who raises his son in love and the son turns to drugs and crime and eventually kills someone. The father is forced to do the right thing and give his son over to justice to protect others. In these circumstances it is common to hear the father say, "I am so angry," meaning he is angry that his son has destroyed his life. This kind of anger stems from deep hurt, because all the good future hopes the father had for his son are crushed. Likewise God's anger stems from the same hurt, because his chosen people are so grossly corrupt they force him to act against them rather than for them.

End.