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Micah 6

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Micah 6.

Topics.

- Let the mountains, hills and foundations of the earth hear God's voice.
- My people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you?
- The LORD loves justice, kindness, and those who walk humbly.
- The LORD will strike Jerusalem with a grievous blow, because of sin.
- You will eat, but not be satisfied and sow, but not reap.

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.

MICAH 6:1-2

1

Let Mountains and Foundations of the Earth Hear the Voice of God.

- **Micah 6:1-2:** Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.
- Mountains, hills and the foundations of the earth do not have ears. Mountains and the hills in this context refer to the leaders, the prophets and the rulers of Judah and Israel.
- The enduring foundations of the earth refer to the faithful remnant.

Micah is calling the people of Judah and Israel to plead their case before the leaders, the prophets and the rulers and for them to listen to the collective voice of the people. He tells the faithful that the LORD is about to bring judgment on Judah and Israel.

MICAH 6:3-5

O my People, what have I done to you? How have I Wearied You?

- **Micah 6:3-5:** "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

Feel the anguish in the LORD'S voice, He takes no delight in having to judge and punish His people, "O my people" expresses great disappointment in the heart of the LORD.

Moses: was a Hebrew Levite and law giver, Aaron and Miriam were his brother and sister he learned all the wisdom of Egypt. Though ten mighty plaques he delivered the children of Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea. Moses received God's law, instituted a system of government and set up the Tabernacle. He was called a man of God, he wrote of Jesus, was meek, obedient, and God spoke to him as a man speaks to his friend. Moses was one-hundred and twenty years old when he died.

Aaron: was three years older than his brother Moses, Miriam was their sister. Aaron was of the tribe of Levi, He was born during Israel's captivity in Egypt, before Pharaoh's edict that all male infants should be destroyed. Together Moses and Aaron finally brought the end of the Egyptian oppression of the Israelites and led the people in the exodus from Egypt (called the house of bondage). Aaron married Elisheba (Elizabeth), they had four sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. With the establishment of the Tabernacle, Aaron became high priest in charge of the national worship, and the head of the hereditary priesthood. The Psalms speak of the priestly line as the house of Aaron and he is mentioned in the book of Hebrews as a type of Christ who was "called of God as was Aaron."

Miriam: Moses and Aaron were brothers and sisters. She showed concern and wisdom on behalf of her infant brother, Moses when he was discovered in the Nile by the Egyptian princess. When Miriam first appears by name, she is called a prophetess. After the passage of the sea, she led the Israelite women in dancing and instrumental accompaniment while she sang the song of praise and victory. Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses for his marriage to a Cushite woman. Because of this criticism, Miriam was punished by the LORD with leprosy, but upon the protest of Aaron and the prayer of Moses, she was restored after seven days.

Balaam and Balak king of Moab: Balaam was hired by king Baalak to curse Israel, Balaam attempted to curse Israel for money, but God would not allow Balaam to curse Israel. Instead of cursing king Baalak heard blessings but Baalak achieved his end in an indirect way when he followed Balaam's advice to seduce the men of Israel to idolatry by having Israel's men engage in mixed marriages with women who worshipped idols and pagan gods. As a result, God brought heavy judgment on His chosen people and the prophet Balaam was later killed with the sword by the people of Israel among the rest of their slain (Joshua 13:22).

Shittim: was the last stop of Israel in the wilderness before crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land, here Balaam tried to curse Israel, but had to bless instead, and here he told king Balak how to seduce the men of Israel. From Shittim Joshua sent the two spies to Jericho and thence Israel departed to cross the River Jordan.

Gilgal: was the first camp of Israel after crossing the Jordan River, while they camped in Gilgal Joshua restored the Hebrew rite of circumcision in response to God's promise to roll away the reproach of Egypt. The altar-memorial of stones Israel erected there became a pagan shrine of later years against which Hosea and Amos warned the people. Saul was sent to Gilgal by Samuel to be confirmed as king over Israel, later Saul grew restless because of the delay in the coming of Samuel and offended Jehovah by presuming to act as priest and make his own sacrifice. Judah gathered at Gilgal to meet David when he returned from defeating the rebels under Absalom (2 Sam. 19).

MICAH 6:6-8

The LORD Loves Justice, Kindness, and those Who Walk Humbly.

- **Micah 6:6-8:** "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give

my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

This is absolutely beautiful I love what Micah says, we can bow and pray to God and give Him all our time, thousands of dollars and do all the outward religious stuff and even teach our own children about Him, but the thing that is really important to God's heart and what He really wants and absolutely loves is simply for people to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:6-8).

MICAH 6:9-13

The LORD will Strike Jerusalem with a Grievous Blow.

- **Micah 6:9-13:** The voice of the LORD cries to the city (of Jerusalem) —and it is sound wisdom to fear your (the LORD'S) name: "Hear of the rod (i.e., the word of discipline or correction) and of him who appointed it! ¹⁰Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? ¹¹Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights? ¹²Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. ¹³Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow, making you desolate because of your sins.

The focus in now God's judgment on Jerusalem: in the Old Testament Israel and Judah often become stubborn and rotten to the core, when they decline into this state of rebellion they bring judgment on themselves, they force the hand of God to strike them because of their extreme transgressions and constant gross sin (v13). Generally human parents love and tolerate their children's harmless even though wrong behaviour, because they understand that no one is perfect, but if those children turn violent and lead others down destructive paths no matter how much the parent loves their children, the child's destructive behaviour forces the parent to punish and discipline, to protect other innocent humans from being harmed. It is the loving thing to do since it protects others from being harmed. Without justice there is no protection for good, innocent and harmless people. God is a caring Father to His beloved children Israel and Judah, but He is also a God of justice, when Israel or Judah act in the same rebellious way, they by their own destructive behaviour force God to judge, especially since they are leading future generations astray and demeaning God's Holy Name and His character to those who do not know Him.

Jesus said: all the Ten Commandments regarding mankind can be summed up in the words, "Love your neighbour as yourself", no sane person deliberately seeks ways of hurting themselves, in fact they will generally do everything they can to avoid pain. Love your neighbour as yourself is not about feeling some warm fuzzy emotion toward others, it simply means do not deliberately harm another human, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, verbally or spiritually. In the New Testament Jesus command to love your neighbour as yourself is called the royal law.

Sins in the city of Jerusalem: (v10-11) the people are full of wickedness and in business are cheating their customers by using scales and weights that give a false reading, the rich and wealthy men are full of violence, meaning they are oppressing the less fortunate for their own gain and the inhabitants of Jerusalem's speak lies to deceive others (all of these things are abominations before God).

MICAH 6:14-16

You will Eat, but not be Satisfied and Sow, but not Reap.

- **Micah 6:14-16:** You shall eat, but not be satisfied, and there shall be hunger within you; you shall put away, but not preserve, and what you preserve I will give to the sword.
¹⁵You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine. ¹⁶For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people."

Omri: reigned in Samaria, but he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, he did more-evil than all who were before him. The golden calf-worship of Jeroboam was continued at Bethel throughout his reign. His son was Ahab who married Jezebel, princess of Tyre, which led to a disastrous religious decline (1 Kings 16:25) (1 Kings 12:32).

Ahab: was the Son of Omri and seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Politically Ahab was one of the strongest kings of Israel, during his reign Israel was at peace with Judah. His marriage to Jezebel, while politically advantageous, was religiously disastrous. She introduced the idolatrous worship of Baal into Israel, the licentious orgies of the goddess Ashtoreth and brought about a severe persecution against the followers of Jehovah. Jezebel killed all the prophets of the LORD with the sword, (except the ones who were hidden by Obadiah) and plotted the death of Naboth, so Ahab her husband could take his land. The book of Kings tells us, Ahab did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him, there was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. Ahab's religious corruption was equaled by his love of material wealth (1 Kings 16:30) (1 Kings 21:25).

Micah says:

- The people have kept the statutes of Omri and all the works of the house of Ahab and walked in their counsel, because of this the LORD will make Judah a desolation and they will become the scorn of the LORD'S people (Micah 6:16).

The people of Judah will put food away to preserve it, but it will go bad, and what they do manage to keep will be taken by their enemies. They will plant seed, but not eat of it and neither will they hear joy, or laughter in the streets of their city.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.