

Gleanings of Grace

Micah 7

Lesson 39

The prophet Micah spoke of the fall of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel. He lived during the time of the fall of the Northern kingdom. The book of Micah begins with the warnings of the punishments God is about to send upon His people. It ends with the grace that God will one day extend to His people. Micah 7, the concluding chapter, reminds the people of the incredibly glorious character of our God.

OBSERVATION: Micah 7

1. Read Micah 7 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *LORD*.
Key Words: *LORD* and *will/shall*
3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used in Micah 7:7. Mark the word and record what the conclusion is based upon.
4. The contrasting word *yet* is used in Micah 7:13. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

5. Using the key words *will* and *shall*, make three lists as the words relate to Micah, the LORD, and Israel's enemies (*she/nations*).

Micah	The LORD	Israel's Enemies

- a. Share one thing you gleaned from these lists.

Background:

1. Micah does not proclaim God's judgments against His people as if he was not moved by them. Read Micah 1:8,9 and describe how you think Micah reacted.
 - a. Notice the statement in verse 9, *her wounds are incurable*. Describe the hopelessness of that statement if it were not for God's forgiveness.

2. Using Micah 3:8, describe Micah's confidence to proclaim God's message.
 - a. How does this speak to you?

3. Micah 5:2 records the prophecy regarding the birth of Jesus. What does it say?
 - a. When the wise men appeared before King Herod saying, *Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?* King Herod was troubled. He gathered all the chief priests and scribes together. He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. What was their answer? Matthew 2:6

- b. Although Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, what does Micah remind us in Micah 5:2 about His existence?
4. The people of Israel seemed to be confused as to what God wanted from them. What were their questions in Micah 6:6,7?
- a. What was God's response in Micah 6:8?

 - b. What do you think God wanted them to understand?

Read Micah 7:1-7 - Sorrow for Israel's Sins

1. On behalf of a sinful nation, Micah confessed the sins of the people. What thoughts or feelings can be behind the statement, *woe is me*?

2. Read verses 1-4 and describe what life and people were like at that time.

3. Notice the word *perplexity* at the end of verse 4. Use synonyms to describe this word.
 - a. Sadly, often in the midst of sin, we are deceived into thinking that all is well. How would you describe the *perplexity* that occurs when God begins to lift the blinders and expose our sin?

4. *Do not trust a friend* (verse 5) is a warning resulting from the conditions of men's hearts at that time. Their rebellion had made them untrustworthy. What does Psalm 118:8 advise?
 - a. Given the circumstances at that time, Micah cautioned against *trusting a friend*. Rather, what did he say he would do in verse 7?

- 1.) In the best of circumstances, no one is worthy of our complete trust. What is the difference between *trusting* someone and *looking to* them?
 - b. Add these verses to your understanding:
Psalm 40:4

Psalm 62:8
 - c. Describe why you believe that God can be *trusted*.
5. Write in bold letters the last five words of Micah 7:7.
 - a. Why is the fact that God *will hear* you better than the *trust* of any *friend*?

Read Micah 7:8-13 – Israel’s Confession and Comfort

1. Contemplate the words of Micah 7:8. A new confidence is arising. What does Micah (and the people of Israel) believe?
 - a. David, too, was concerned about the reaction of his enemies. What did he write in Psalm 13:4-6?
 - b. What hope does it give you knowing that, because of the LORD’S *mercy*, you will not stay in a state of defeat or *darkness*?
2. Micah 7:9 reveals the difference between being sorry for our sins and being truly repentant. What do you see as indications of repentance?
 - a. This verse also reveals an understanding of God’s forgiveness. What phrases declare this?

3. Micah 7:10 begins the anticipation of Israel, and all of God's people, of the day our enemies will be *shamed*. What question had their enemies been asking?
 - a. The Bible contains many verses quoting God's enemies questioning the protection and care of our God. What did those who mocked Jesus at the cross say about Him? Matthew 27:43.
 - 1.) Consider the verses above (Micah 7:10, Matthew 27:43) and Jeremiah 50:34. What should our reaction be when people question God's protection and provision?
4. Destruction had not yet come upon Jerusalem. The wall had not yet fallen. Yet Micah 7:11 reassures them that the *walls are to be built*. What comfort would they derive from this promise "after" the fall of the city?
 - a. What is a promise in God's word that, at one time, you did not know you would need, but has become very precious to you?

Read Micah 7:14-20 – God Will Forgive Israel

1. This section of Micah 7 records the people longing for the *days of old*; the days when the LORD *shepherded His people with His staff*. Share what it has been like for you when the Holy Spirit breaks through your backsliding and you begin thinking as Israel did in this verse.
2. What was the promised result in verse 15?
 - a. What are some *wonders* God has shown you when you allow Him to be your *Shepherd*?
3. Summarize the fate of their enemies in Micah 7:16,17.

- a. Notice the statement at the end of verse 17, *and shall fear because of You*. A grand transition will take place. The enemies of God will no longer mock and question, *Where is your God*. They will *fear Him*. What changes do you think will occur that will provoke this turnaround?

4. Note the question in Micah 7:18. Using verses 18-20 answer that question.

- a. Define the word *delight*.

- 1.) What does it mean to you to know that the LORD *delights in mercy*?

- b. Take two of these attributes declared in verses 18-20 and, in your own words, describe them.

REVIEW: Micah 7

1. The sins of the people affected the nation. How do the sins of the people affect our nation today?

2. What did you glean from your study of Micah 7 that you will appropriate into your life?

*O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O LORD?
Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*

- Psalm 89:8

Observation Worksheet

Micah 7

Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires. ² The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; every man hunts his brother with a net. ³ That they may successfully do evil with both hands-- the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire; so they scheme together. ⁴ The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; the day of your watchman and your punishment comes; now shall be their perplexity. ⁵ Do not trust in a friend; do not put your confidence in a companion; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom. ⁶ For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own household. ⁷ Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. ⁸ Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. ⁹ I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness. ¹⁰ Then she who is my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will see her; now she will be trampled down like mud in the streets. ¹¹ In the day when your walls are to be built, in that day the decree shall go far and wide. ¹² In that day they shall come to you from Assyria and the fortified cities, from the fortress to the River, from sea to sea, and mountain to mountain. ¹³ Yet the land shall be desolate because of those who dwell in it, and for the fruit of their deeds. ¹⁴ Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock of Your heritage, who dwell solitarily in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in days of old. ¹⁵ "As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders." ¹⁶ The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall put their hand over their mouth; their ears shall be deaf. ¹⁷ They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of You. ¹⁸ Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.