

26th March 2006: O.T. Review: Micah-→Its Standout Verses

The book....not really a hard book to read or understand

The first verse tells us about the prophet.....and the time period

1:1.... (Moreseth) (3 kings) (Isaiah and Hosea)

& we know from Jer 26:18-19 that he was successful.....

The second verse tells us what the visionis all about::: v 2.....

The “against you”....refers to God’s people→nations of Israel/Judah...their capitals

THE Sovereign Lord calls them to face Him in His courtroom

With all the peoples of the earth as the jury

He bears witness against their sins.....before the judgment is pronounced

This courtroom illustration is further developed in chapter 6.....(Key chapter)

Look at 6:1-2.....

This charge against His people.....is outlined in chapters 1—3

Where imminent judgment is also prophesied

THERE WE FIND THAT:→

- The people of God had become idol worshippers.....So 1:7 says
- Society had become extremely unjust & corrupt.....2:1-2.....3:1-3...
- The prophets turned a blind eye.....said that everything was wonderful .while some would tell you anything you wanted.....for a bottle....good feed.

Now of course Micah....Was very different to such official Prophets

His commissioning was from God alone.....Brutally honestNot at all popular

He says of his own ministry→ 3:8

This Book Of Micah however.....not all Judgment
Especially in chapters 4-5 we read about.....**The Ultimate Blessing that is promised**
Look at 4:1-5.....

Now of course.....these verses relate to the Coming of the Messiah
And in 5:2 we find that amazing prophecy that we turn to each Christmas → **5:2....**

*(talking to one of our senior.....senior friend church goer for years.....All a myth
Thought to myself how sad.....sat through church.....yet could think that !
When this prophecy.....proclaimed 700 years before.....Existed in written form
centuries bf Christ.....And was referred to by Jewish scholars when the wise men....)*

Prophecies like this one.....confirm Jesus as God's chosen Messiah
And those who refused to accept Him as God's Son...their Saviour
Book themselves a place in God's courtroom one day.....to explain such a refusal

Yet another promise of Ultimate blessing is found in 4:4-5.....

So the book of Micah declares Imminent Judgment upon Israel and Judah
And even mentions who will be the instruments of that judgment

It also predicts a future time of great blessing.....Messiah comes

And Thirdly.....the book of Micah pleads...for the people to repent...**esp in 6-7**

To change their ways and look to God in hope
Because God is such a gracious and merciful

And in this book of Micah we find some beautiful testimonies to the Lord

Look at 7:7...Micah's own personal testimony.....

Then especially 7:18—19.....

(Is that how you know God this morning.....Sign NO FISHING)

God is indeed so Gracious....So loving.....So willing to forgive
But He is also a God.....who has expectations of His children

Micah put such expectation very clearly in 6:8.....
Its all part of the Courtroom scene

God declares in v3-5 all His goodness to His people...in rescuing Egypt...Giving hope
The people then ask what God wants from them in return...v6-7.....

Verse 8 is the answer.....

Let us imagine this morning.....That it is us in God's Courtroom
I have saved you from your personal Egypt....slavery to sin ...death...hell's judgment
And what do I seek from you.....in your life on earth....says God

*That you act justly and love mercy
Walk humbly with me as your God*

I believe that here at Craigie.....we put a lot of energy....rightly so.....in teaching
In encouraging.....and in living out a humble walk with God:: Knowing Him...

And as a church we are seeking to make a diff.....in the lives of those who suffer
But it is inacting justly and loving mercy.....that we could all do so much more

In 2004.....Micah Challenge was launched.....based on this verse
Calling Christians to make a difference.....**To pray for**.....To actively seek
Ways of defeating poverty.....Of bringing justice

(Quotes from Micah Challenge.....Just recently I received.....\$20 per month)

The book of Micah challenges usas believers to do what the Lord requires of us
In the areas of loving mercy.....seeking justice

Commit ourselves to PRAY...BE INFORMED...BE OPEN TO ACT AS Lord directs

