



"A Second Witness" (Micah Overview)

Danny Hodges – OT2384

Intro:

1. Turn with me to Micah, one of the minor prophets...

2. In turning ahead in our Bibles to Micah, you may initially get the impression that we are fast forwarding through time. But the truth is, if we had gone immediately to Jeremiah, we would have gone ahead some 100 years. Micah, you see, is a contemporary of Isaiah. How do we know this? See Isaiah 1:1 & Micah 1:1. So what we felt led to do is to take things as they came, chronologically. Now, the basic message is the same. Just as we saw in Isaiah proclamation & prophecies of judgment and woe, and tremendous promises of a glorious future, so in Micah will we move chapter by chapter through both the negative and the positive...

3. There are also some pretty famous passages in Micah, and I will try and be careful to not miss any as we study highlights of this brief but most important book.

I. THE JUDGMENT TO COME

* 1:5 The high places were places of idolatry. The idolatry began in the north (Samaria capital of northern tribes), but eventually worked its way south (Jerusalem capital of the southern tribes).

* 1:6-7a This is what happened when the Assyrians invaded Israel.

* 1:7a Temple prostitution became common in Israel as they worshipped foreign gods such as Baal and Asherah. The money used in their idolatrous practices would again be used for the same purpose, only now by the Assyrians.

* 1:8-12 Micah wails in grief because of the judgment that comes as a result of Israel's sin...

* 3:12

* 4:10a Amazing prophecy because Babylon was not the most powerful empire at the time, Assyria was.

7:13 Micah's prophecy referred not only to judgments past against Israel, but future judgment of the world. Refer back to 1:2a.

* See Isaiah 24:1-3ff

* II Peter 3: 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

II. THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE OF THE DAY

* False prophets prophesied lies (2:6-7, 11; 3:5)

* When disaster came, the false prophets would be humiliated (3:4, 6-7).

* Religious & civil leaders were greedy, yet very religious (2:1-2; 3:11).

* The people were just like their leaders (7:2-4a)

* It was pretty much the same spiritual climate as in Jesus' first coming. The Pharisees loved money...they certainly were not honest and upright (moneychangers in the temple); And look at what they did with Jesus and how they went about it, securing false witnesses against Him, paying the soldiers to lie about the body of Jesus after the resurrection...

* Family division was commonplace (See 7:5-6)

- Jesus used this text to refer to the division that would take place when people repented and put their faith in Him.

- Matthew 10: 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--

36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

* It has always been the case that those who live for righteousness, and stand against the unrighteousness of their day, will at times make enemies even in their own homes and among their own family.

* Gen.19: 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

* Hosea 9: 7 The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac.

* John 7: 52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

III. THE GLORIOUS HOPE FOR THE REMNANT

* See Micah 5:2-5a; 4:1-7; 7:8-9, 18-20

IV. GOD'S GRACIOUS VOICE TO AN UNDESERVING PEOPLE

A. He Spoke Through Micah & Isaiah

* Micah is a second voice to Israel in their sin, a second witness if you will.

* Isaiah 1: 18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;

20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

* Illus: At restaurant a couple of weeks ago where they cook the food right in front. I talked to the cook and in the conversation discovered he was living with his girlfriend. As I talked with him about the sinfulness of his actions, and that he needed to marry her, he looked at me and said, "You sound like my mother." One of my friends was talking to his friend about a sinful situation situation he was in. he looked at my friend and said, "You sound like Pastor Danny!"

B. He Spoke Through The "Rod" He Brought Upon Them (6:9)

* See 6:9, 14-15; Amos 4:6-12

C. He Told Them Exactly What They Needed To Do To Please Him (See 6:6-8).

1. To act justly

- Matthew 23: 23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--*justice*, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

- Isaiah 1:10-18; I Sam.15:22; Psalm 51:16-17

- To act justly is simply to do what is right, based on the Word of God.

- A UCLA professor posed this question to his Medical Ethics class: How would you advise the following patient concerning pregnancy & the possibility of abortion. The father has syphilis. The mother has tuberculosis. Their first child was born blind. Their second child died at childbirth. The third child was born deaf. The fourth child contracted tuberculosis. Now the mother is pregnant again. 70% of the students said "Abort the child." "Congratulations," said the professor, "you just aborted Beethoven."

- Prov.14: 9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

2. To love mercy

- Luke 10: 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

- Lam.3: 22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

- See Luke 6:32-36

3. To walk humbly with your God

- Humility involves submission; I am not out doing my own thing...
- The danger of a hard heart...examples: Pharaoh, Rom.1 (depraved mind),

Uzziah, etc.

CONCLUSION

* There is nothing new said in this prophetic book. There are of course some unique prophetic passages, but the essential message is still the same. It just comes through a second voice. Remember, Isaiah is saying the same things...

* There's always more than one voice seeking to turn us from our sinful ways...