

Micah 5, 6, 7

A Messianic Prophecy Chp 5

- Judgement is coming. A foreign power will lay siege.
- Out of Bethlehem will come a delivering leader. (The Messiah)
- Matthew 2:5-6
- Bethlehem was the home of King David and was long prophesied to be the home of the Messiah.
- Bethlehem = House of Bread.
- Ephrathah = fruitfulness, abundance.
- The Messiah is pre-existent, even before the old, ancient times.
- There will be a period when Israel is abandoned. But then the Messiah will appear and Israel will be secure and experience peace.
- Seven shepherds and eight commanders = God will raise up great and capable leaders.
- When God delivers Israel, the remnant will be widespread and strong.
- When the nation is restored, God will destroy the armies, the strongholds, witchcraft, and idols.
- The Asherah poles were poles or trees where people gathered to worship the Canaan goddess, Asherah.
- God will punish all nations who disobey.

The Case Against Israel Chp 6

- In chapter 6, Micah paints an image in which Israel is on trial and the Lord is the Judge and Prosecutor.
- The witnesses in the trial are the mountains and foundations of the earth.
- The Lord asks, "When have I ever done wrong to you?"
- Faithful through the years. The Lord led the people out of Egypt. Kept them from harm from Moab. Led them through various journeys and trials.
- Perhaps Israel should try please the Lord by coming before him with sacrifices of young calves, burnt offerings, and rivers of oil. Nope, ain't gonna work?
- Maybe they should offer their firstborn.
- God didn't want their empty religion.
- What does God desire? Act justly. LOVE mercy. Walk humbly with God.
- *"I would not advise any of you to try to be humble, but to be humble. As to acting humbly, when a man forces himself to it, that is poor stuff. When a man talks a great deal about his humility, when he is very*

humble to everybody, he is generally a canting hypocrite. Humility must be in the heart, and then it will come out spontaneously as the outflow of life in every act that a man performs.” (Spurgeon)

- Israel is not listening to the warnings of the prophet, the voice of the Lord.
- They continue to be unjust, cheating the poor, using violence, and speaking deceitfully.
- The nation followed the ways of two of Israel’s most evil kings, Omri and his son, Ahab.

Israel’s Misery (7:1-7)

- The day is coming when the righteous will be swept from the land.
- The people lie in wait to shed blood and are skilled in doing evil.
- The ruler demands gifts and the judges accepts bribes. THERE IS NO JUSTICE!
- The powerful conspire to get whatever they want.
- The people won’t be able to trust each other.
- “But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord. I wait for my Savior; my God will hear me.

Promise of Restoration (7:8-13)

- Though I have fallen, I will rise. God will never abandon Israel.
- I have sinned. Therefore, I will bear the Lord’s wrath.
- He will bring me out into the light and I will see his righteousness.
- The day is coming when Israel will be restored and the nations will come to her.

Prayer and Praise (7:14-20)

- “Shepherd your people with your staff...” The Lord himself one day shepherd Israel.
- “As in the days, long ago.” Israel will one day be restored to the earlier days when they walked closely to the Lord.
- God will pardon their sins and forgive their transgressions.
- God will not stay angry forever. He delights in showing mercy.
- Just as God pledged to the ancestors in days past, he will be faithful and love Israel.