

October 25th Sunday 2015

Text: Micah 6:9-12

Topic: Remember the Judgment Day

The Lord called to the people of Jerusalem to fear His name and heed what He had to say; for without the fear of the Lord, they could have neither knowledge nor wisdom (Prov. 1:7). God specifically condemned the merchants of the city for being deceptive in their business practices (v. 10-12). They used weights and measures that were dishonest so that customers didn't get full value for their money. Why did this sin grieve the Lord so much? Because by doing these illegal things, the businessmen were exploiting and abusing the poor and needy in the land for whom God has a special concern. The Mosaic economic system provided for the care of the poor and needy, but the wealthy merchants in Micah's time had abandoned the system. They robbed the poor of both justice and the necessities of life, a sin God could not overlook. God promised to punish them because of those matters and their businesses will suffer economic loss. Similar events are happening in our world today. Methods in business become more and more cruel. Employers do not trust their workers. Workers do not trust their employers. Many people lose their jobs. It happens at difficult times. It happens when they need money in order to look after their families. People become desperate. People do not trust each other. There are more arguments in court than there were before. Those arguments become more complex than before. Then people need more lawyers. They need to pay the lawyers. And perhaps they do not even care whether the lawyers are honest. Cruelty in business creates fear. And fear creates a situation where everyone tells lies. These messages from the prophets are important today. The people in the world still need to hear them.

Lesson: When God speaks, there is only one choice, either you obey or they disobey. When you obey, all will go well. Happy and pleasant things will happen to you. When you disobey, the results will be terrible.

Prayer: Teach me and guide me O Lord towards obeying your words, Amen.

October 26th Monday 2015

Text: Micah 6:13-16

Topic: God will surely punish the wicked

But God has ordained that people reap what they sow, whether good or evil. Therefore, judgment had to fall on the rich men of the land. Indeed. God warned about two different kinds of judgments. The first (vv. 13-15) was already in progress, slow and secret, but very thorough. "Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins" (v. 13 NIV). This judgment was the collapse of their economic system, including their crops (stolen farms), their investments (stolen money), and even their enjoyment of all that they had accumulated. Everything these merchant thieves had gathered for their pleasure would disappear, and whatever they tried to enjoy would bring them no pleasure at all. The second judgment (v.16) would be sudden and open: the total ruin of the nation by the hand of Babylon. But by the time Babylon was finished with Judah and Jerusalem, the nation would be in ruin and the people in derision. The people's sins found them out. As a result of this sin of disobedience, God listed the punishment that would follow: 1. You will eat, but it will not satisfy you. Your stomach will still be empty.

2. You will store up goods, but you will lose everything. 3. You will have various kinds of illnesses. 4. You will sow your seeds, but you will not harvest crops from them. Lets pause hear and compare Micah's days to ours. Are there any connection or similarities? If there are, then, we should quickly amend our ways to avoid God's wrath.

Lesson: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

Prayer: Grant me the grace to have your fear in my heart always.

October 27th Tuesday 2015

Text: Micah 7:1-4

Topic: Corruption in the Land

Micah lamented because there were no godly people left in the land. Looking for a godly person was as futile as looking for summer fruit after the harvest was over. Micah compared the evil officials to hunters who wove clever nets and threw them over the helpless and trapped them. These officials and judges were skilled at perverting the law so they could rob the unwary, but they weren't skilled at obeying God's laws. They were like briars and thorns that hurt people, when they should have been like concerned shepherds who helped people. "The day of your watchmen" in verse 4 refers to the Day of Judgment when the watchmen on the walls would see the enemy approaching and call out to warn the people. God's prophets were His watchmen (Ezek 3:18-21), constantly warning the nation, but the leaders wouldn't listen. They preferred lies to truth and this brought about a "time of ... confusion" Preachers are today's watchmen, warning people not to sin but they wouldn't listen. The only thing they will like to do well is to sin! In our government rulers ruled only in favor of those who gave them gifts even if justice were cast aside; in the courtroom the judge accepts bribe, and the powerful (rich and influential people) get whatever they want. The leaders even conspire together in taking advantage of the less privileged. Even the best of the leaders are like a briar and worse than a thorn hedge, entangling and injuring all who came in contact with them. What God's true prophet had predicted would someday come true. God would "visit" the people in judgment and they would be confused, not knowing what to do. The earlier we repent the better.

Lesson: We can find peace only in Jesus, who is called the Prince of Peace. That is the truth.

Prayer: May your peace reign in my heart O Lord.

October 28th Wednesday 2015

Text: Micah 7:5-7

Topic: Unfaithfulness of the people

This confusion reached into every level of society. Not only was Micah grieved at the corruption of the officials, but also he was grieved at the unfaithfulness of the common people of the land (vv. 5-6). You couldn't trust anybody! When truth is no longer the standard for society, then everything starts to fall apart: for faithfulness to our word is the cement that holds society together. It had come to the place where neighbor couldn't trust neighbor, friends couldn't trust each other. The basic unit of Jewish society, the family, was quickly falling apart. Micah was describing the troubles in a nation because of a terrible war. But we can see similar troubles even in countries where there is no

war. In modern society, law and government have failed in many ways. The things that Micah taught are also true today. Sons hate their fathers. Daughters have quarrels with their mothers. Daughters quarrel with their husbands' mothers. A husband may not be successful in his marriage. He may be unkind to his wife. Then his wife may blame his mother for those things. She may say that his mother trained him badly in his childhood. She blames his mother for his behaviour. Many failures in marriage are the result of such arguments. They can happen thousands of times in a nation. The results are terrible. Micah told the people what God expected from them. Micah told them to be fair. He told them to be kind. Micah told the people to be humble (6:8). God wants Christians to behave in the same way today. We should live humbly, and trust God all the time. We need to live by God's rules. Then our lives can start to benefit our homes, our society and even our world.

Lesson: "But as for me. I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" (v. 7). "Watch and pray" and put your trust only in the Lord.

Prayer: Help me to watch and pray always, Amen.

October 29th Thursday 2015

Text: Micah 7:8-13

Topic: The Church will rise again

Micah gives a promise to Jerusalem's people. Jerusalem will become like a field that has sheep in it. Its people will be like the sheep and the LORD will be their shepherd. The world will suffer God's punishment. Israel's people will help the other nations. They will show to the other nations how to have a right relationship with God. The other nations are now God's enemies. But in the future, they will be able to become his friends (verses 11-13). God would bring his people through when times were tough. But the people According to Jesus, the Jewish nations will experience great tribulation and become the target of all the Gentile nations in the end times (Matt 24:15-31). Christians all over the world today have become the target of the enemies of the gospel, but as we trust God and have confidence in him, though we were in darkness, we would see light; and though we had been defeated, we would eventually conquer our enemies and trample them like mud in the streets.

Lesson: No force of darkness will overpower the true Church of God.

Prayer: Increase our faith to believe your promises O Lord, Amen.

October 30th Friday 2015

Text: Micah 7: 14-17

Topic: God is at work in our situation

Many years ago the Israelites had entered the country that God had promised to them and wonderful things (good and bad) happened during that period described by Micah. In Bashan and Gilead, they produced plenty of food and healthy animals because their Land was good. That time was a good time in which to live. On the other hand, they were attacked several times by other cities and kings. That was Micah prayed to God to

bring back those original benefits. So that those nations would longer laugh at them, rather they would themselves in shame. Not only that, but also the boundaries of the nation would be expanded to include more territory than she had before. In the light of this great promise, the prophet lifted his heart to the Lord in prayer (v.14) and asked Him to be the faithful Shepherd of Israel and care for His people. He longed for "the good old days" when the land was fruitful and peaceful and the people were like obedient sheep that followed their Shepherd. Jesus is called the good and great shepherd of the sheep. He said that he had other sheep (other people) too. He will bring his sheep (his people) from all over the world. There will be one great crowd of them. Jews will be there. And people that are not Jews will be there (John 10:16). Jesus will gather them as his possessions. Verses 15-17 linked very much with verse 10. Micah thinks about the promises that God has made. God will do extraordinary things. Not only the people of Israel but to all that believes in Him, including you and I. God is aware of our situation, he will do extraordinary things when the time comes. Don't be discouraged, just have faith.

Lesson: Though the Church of God had been attacked and destroyed, she would one day be rebuilt.

Prayer: My dear Lord, grant me the grace to wait on you for the fulfillment of your divine promise for my life, in Jesus' name, Amen.

October 31st Saturday 2015

Text: Micah 7:18-20

Topic: Who is like Yahweh (God)?

Micah's book now ends. In these final verses, he describes our wonderful God. "Who is a God like You?" (V. 18) reminds us of the meaning of Micah's name. "Who is like the Lord?" He is a God who pardons sin, forgives transgressions, and delights in showing mercy. He shows compassion to His people and deals with their sins with finality. The prophet was confident of the unchanging character of God. The name 'Yahweh' describes God's wonderful character. It describes his goodness. God pities his people. He is kind to them. That is a way to describe how God forgives his people. These people are the remnant that God has rescued. We see in them a reflection of what God told Moses on the mount (Ex 34:5-7). The better we know the character of God, the more we can trust Him for the future. The better we know the promises and covenants of God, the more peace we will have in our hearts when things fall apart. When Micah wrote this confession of his faith, the future seemed hopeless; yet he had hope because he knew God and fully trusted Him. No matter how dark the day, the light of God's promises is still shining. No matter how confusing and frightening our circumstances, the character of God remain the same. You have every reason to trust Him! There is none like Him.

Lesson: He will come back and he will comfort us again.

Prayer: Help me, O Lord, to trust you wholeheartedly and obey you genuinely through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.