

Commentary on Micah Chapters 5&6 by Chuck Smith 5.22.24

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May memory verse Romans 6:8 (NKJV)

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

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Chapter 5

Now in chapter 5 Micah leaves that scene of the future and he comes back to an intermediate scene.

Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: and they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek (Mic 5:1).

That, of course, is a prophecy relating to Jesus Christ and was fulfilled in Matthew (Mat 26:67). He was smitten with a rod that it might be fulfilled as the prophet declares, and this is the prophecy here in Micah. Going on to prophesy concerning the Messiah:

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me he that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose going forth has been from old, from everlasting (Mic 5:2).

So the prophecy that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel (Mic 5:3).

So the Messiah was cut off, therefore He will just give them up. Israel was given up in a sense by God. And now we are living in an age in which God is dealing among the Gentiles, drawing out a body of Christ. And such will be the case until Israel again begins to travail, seeking their Messiah. "Until she which travails has brought forth, then God's grace and glory will return unto the children of Israel."

And he shall stand (Mic 5:4)

And this is a prophecy concerning Christ and His relationship to Israel in the Kingdom Age.

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And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, and in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and he shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth (Mic 5:4).

Remember when Gabriel was talking to Mary concerning the child that was to be born, he said, "And He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32). So all of this word of Gabriel to Mary tied together the prophecies of the Old Testament.

And this man shall be the peace (Mic 5:5),

He is the peace. In Isaiah he prophesied, "For unto to us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Now the prophet Micah says, "For He is our peace." And Paul tells us that in Ephesians. For He is our peace, who has broken down the barriers that used to exist between man, and He has made us all one together in Him. There is no real peace until the walls of separation are broken down between men. He is our peace, who has broken down these walls. So the beautiful prophecies concerning Christ.

now when the Assyrians shall come into our land (Mic 5:5):

And this, of course, is a prophecy of the last day invasion by Russia.

and when they shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men (Mic 5:5).

You say, "Who are they?" I don't know. We'll find out when it happens.

And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land, and when he treads within our borders (Mic 5:6).

The king of the north in those last days; not only Russia, but probably also the reference to Armageddon.

And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people (Mic 5:7)

And this is probably the ministry of the 144,000 during the Great Tribulation period.

And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as the dew from the LORD [freshness and refreshing], as showers upon the grass, that tarry not for man, nor wait for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, he both treads down, and tears in pieces,

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and none can deliver. For thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all of thine enemies shall be cut off. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: and I will cut off the cities of the land, and throw down all thy strongholds: And I will cut off the witchcraft out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more the soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands. And I will pluck up your groves [that is your places of worship of the false gods] out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities. And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard (Mic 5:7-15).

This will be the Great Tribulation period that we read about in Daniel and from Jesus and from the revelation of John--the period of Great Tribulation. But I want you to notice something about this Great Tribulation. God is declaring that in the Great Tribulation I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon who? The heathen. That should comfort you to know that God has not appointed us unto wrath. The execution of God's judgment, anger and all is coming upon the heathen, such as they have never experienced or dreamed. Daniel said, "And there shall be a time of great trouble such as never existed from the beginning." Jesus said, "And there shall be a time of trouble such as has never been before or will ever be again," as they refer to this Great Tribulation period.

Now notice that during this time the instruments that God is using are the Jews, not the church. His faithful remnant among the Jews will be God's instruments of witness upon the earth during the Great Tribulation. The church will have been translated and will be with Lord in glory enjoying the marriage supper of the Lamb. "Blessed is he who is called to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Jesus said, "Pray ye always that you will escape the things that are going to come pass upon the earth and that you will be standing before the Son of man."

And we read in Revelation, chapter 5, as there is this scroll in heaven, the title deed to the earth in the right hand of the Father as He sits upon the throne and the angel proclaims with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to take this scroll and break the seals?" And John begins to sob because no one is found worthy in heaven and earth or even under the sea to take the scrolls and loose the seals. But the elder said, "Don't weep, John. Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to take the scroll and loose the seals." And John said, "I turned and I saw Him as a lamb that had been slaughtered. And He came and He took the scroll out of the right hand of Him that sits upon the throne. And when He did, the twenty-four elders came forth with little golden vials that were full of odors, which were the prayers of the saints. And they offered them up before the Lord and they sang a new song saying, 'Worthy is the Lamb to take the scroll and loose the seals, for He was slain and He has redeemed us by His blood out of all nations and tongues and tribes and people. And He hath made us unto our God kings and priests and we will reign with Him upon the earth.'"

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Standing before the Son of God, that is where I want to be, not down here as God is pouring out His anger and vengeance upon the heathen, but standing with the children of God there before the throne.

Chapter 6

Hear ye now what the LORD says; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice. Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel. O my people (Mic 6:1-3),

Still His people after all of this.

what have I done unto you? (Mic 6:3)

And listen to God's pleading with the people. God says, "What have I done? What have I done wrong? What have I done against you?"

and wherein have I wearied you? (Mic 6:3)

Go ahead and tell Me, witness against Me, give a testimony against Me. What have I done? Where have I wearied you?

For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and I redeemed you out of the house of servants (Mic 6:4);

I took you from bondage and from slavery. You were nothing but a bunch of slaves.

and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD (Mic 6:4-5).

Now he says, now go back and read the prophecies of Balaam when Balak the king said, "Come and curse these people." And so he said, "Built me an altar," and he built an altar. And as he began to look over tents of Jacob he began to declare, "O how beautiful are the tents of Jacob. O how glorious is their redeemer. O that I may die the death of Jacob." And he began to declare the glory. And the king said, "Shut up. I don't want you to bless them. I want you to curse them." And he took them to another mountain, built another altar. He said, "Go back and read what I had to say about you. Read the blessings that I declared concerning you." And God is saying go back and read them. So you ought to go back when you get home tonight in Numbers and read the prophecies of Balaam concerning Israel.

O my people, remember now the words that were spoken through Balaam; that you may know how righteous I have been towards you. Wherewith shall I come before the

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LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? (Mic 6:5-6)

"How can I approach God?" the prophet is saying.

Will the LORD be pleased if I should offer a thousand rams, or ten thousand of rivers of oil? (Mic 6:7)

What can I offer to God as a sacrifice for all of God's blessings and goodness?

shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (Mic 6:7)

Should I offer my own son to God? What can I do? What does God want of me? What does God require of me?

And the prophet answers,

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, just to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Mic 6:8)

You say, "Well, that doesn't sound so bad." But look at it again. God requires that you do justly. Have you always done the right thing? Have you always been fair and honest? Have you never cheated in a deal? Have you never concealed or hid a part of the truth? Well, scratch that one off.

To love mercy; do you really love mercy? Do you really love to just forgive and say, "Oh, forget it. It doesn't really matter. That's all right." Or, do you love to get even? Do you go around saying, "I'll get even with him if it's the last thing I do. You just wait. I'll get even."

and to walk humbly with thy God? (Mic 6:8)

The prophet is crying out, "What can I do? Does God want me to give Him my first-born son, rivers of oil, whatever? What does God require?" And the Lord answers, "He has shown thee O man what is good. This is what God requires."

The LORD'S voice cries unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it. Are there not yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, does God hate the scant measure that is abominable? (Mic 6:9-10)

And then those that have a bag full of deceitful weights. Now they used the balance scales and they had deceitful weights. They had one set of weights that they would buy with and another set that they would sell with; deceitful weights, bag full of deceitful weights. God says, "I hate that." Dishonesty in dealing with our brothers. What a

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violation that is to the law of God where Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." What a violation to that law to cheat or to defraud my brother, to use deceitfulness in dealing with him.

For the rich men are full of violence [he declares], and the inhabitants have spoken lies, their tongues are deceitful. Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, and in making thee desolate because of your sins. You will eat, but not be satisfied (Mic 6:12-14);

And how true this is of a man who gives himself over to unbridled lust; he eats, but he is never satisfied.

and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but you will not deliver; and that which you delivered you will give up to the sword. For you will sow, but you will not reap (Mic 6:14-15);

Someone else will reap the benefits of all of your efforts and work.

thou shalt tread the olives, that they shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but you will not drink it. For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab (Mic 6:15-16),

Omri and Ahab, the two wicked kings of Israel that led the people into such abominable practices and sins.

But you're walking in their counsels (Mic 6:16);

You're following after their ways.

that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof a hissing: therefore shall ye bear the reproach of my people (Mic 6:16).

A sign of great disdain was just hissssss. They wanted to show just utter disdain for people, they would just hiss at them just like you do a cat, hiss. So it showed a sign of total disdain and God said, "You will become a hissing. People will see you and they'll just hiss at you. They'll just give you the 'ol hiss." It is sort of an irritating thing to have a person do that to you. They still do it. I've had them do it to me over there in Israel. They'll hiss at you if you don't buy their merchandise and you go to leave and they're angry with you and they'll hiss at you. They'll also spit, and that too is a sign of great disdain. In the Oriental customs if you want to show total disdain, you spit on a person. Of course, I guess that would show disdain here too, but we're a little more cultured.