

GOD AS DIVINE (YET FRUSTRATED) PARENT

Sunday, January 10, 2021 — MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope series -- Msg 10 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

THE PROPHECY OF MICAH -- 3 Prophecy Cycles of Judgment and Mercy

The Setting: The people of Israel are in rebellion and have sinned against God.

3rd Cycle : **Denunciations and Salvation**

Micah chapters 6 & 7

- God's indictments (6:1-5 and 6:9-16)
- Israel's replies (6:6-8 and 7:1-10)
- God's Exaltation and Salvation of His people (7:11-20)

NOTICE: The judgment prophecies are intended to lead God's people to repentance.
In every cycle God's mercy PREVAILS for His people in and over His judgment.

MICAH 6:1-5 -- GOD REVIEWS 700 YEARS OF PARENTING REBELLIOUS ISRAEL

MICAH 6:1-5 is much better understood if studied along side Deuteronomy 32, Psalms 50 and Isaiah 1:1-2.

DEUTERONOMY 32 -- The Song of Moses given by God to Moses at the end of his life.

- It is an overview of the history of God's people, Israel.
 - Their RISE from nothing.
 - DEMISE from rebellion.
 - Their RESURRECTION from death by God's mercy.
- It is from the perspective of DIVINE PARENTAL LOVE. (32:1-6, 10-11 "the apple of his eye")
- It is filled with frustration and sadness.

WHY? Because God had in mind nothing less than re-creation for them.

But instead they chose:

- idolatrous wealth (vs 15-16)
- apostasy (they left faith in and worship God (vs 16-17)
- God's judgment for breaking their covenant with God (vs 23-27)

But judgment is not where it ends...

- It ends with a window into God's heart!

HOW? God made a covenant to save His people and he will keep it.

God, Himself, will make atonement for His people. vs

PSALM 50 -- A prophetic call directly from God to His people.

- It is a rejection of their constant sacrifices made with the wrong motives.
- It is a rejection of their ungodly behavior. 16-22
- It is a rejection of sacrifices for appeasement. vs 7-11
- It calls for holy living and sacrifices made with true gratitude. vs 14, 23
- **WHY?** Because God's people know that salvation only comes from God! vs 15, 23

ISAIAH 1:1-2 ISAIAH and MICAH have similar messages at the same time.

1 *The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.*

2 *Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:*

*"Children have I reared and brought up,
but they have rebelled against me."*

- 1 *Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.*
- 2 *Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.*
- 3 *“O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!*
- 4 *For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.*
- 5 *O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”*

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT:

vs 1-2 God prosecutes His case against His unfaithful people.

The mountains know the truth about 700 years of covenant breaking since Moses.

vs 3 God's parental heart of frustration and sadness comes through.

vs 4 God delivered them from Pharaoh in Egypt.

(see the Book of Exodus)

vs 5 God brought them into the Promised Land and established them generously.

(See Numbers 22:5-6, Numbers 25:1, Joshua 5:9-10 & Judges 5:11)

- God delivers them repeatedly.
- The people sin against Him repeatedly.
- God would rather bless than curse!

APPLICATIONS TO OUR LIVES:

1) God is righteous and just in His judgment against His people's sin.

2) God is righteous and gracious in His deliverance of His people from their situation and their sin.

3) God's people can cling to His justice and mercy that is poured out through Jesus Christ.

4) God's people can live in grateful obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

GALATIANS 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and
gave himself for me.*