

## Micah's Lament and Confident Hope

Micah 7:1-7

January 8, 2025

Micah 6 ended with striking words of judgement from God who pronounced in verse 13 that He would strike Judah with a grievous blow making them desolate because of their sins.

Tonight's passage continues the third and final cycle of the book. Each cycle of the book has included promises of judgement and promises of salvation. Micah 6:1 opened the third cycle of the book like the other two cycles (1:2-23, 3:1-5:15) with the command "Hear."

### I. Micah's Sorrow Described (1)

The strong words of judgement that were previously spoken against Judah's many sins are interrupted by the words that open the passage – "Woe is me!" "Woe," an expression of great grief or sorrow is spoken by Micah. **Job 10:1-15.**

*What does the metaphor in verse 1 (a figure of speech where something is used to represent something else) describe and what is the metaphor's significance?*

Micah's response is a foreshadow of the same dynamic seen in the NT as Christ came to the end of his earthly ministry. Matt. 23:37-39.

### II. Pervasive Depravity Detailed (2-6)

*What does the detailing of Judah's sins in verses 2-6 reveal about man? About God?*

- **Depravity Seen Universally (2-3a)**

Verses 2-3a details the depravity seen universally. Note the breadth of what Micah says about the "godly" (faithful – NIV, the good man – KJV) and the upright, or righteous:

- "Has perished – been destroyed, been exterminated – from the earth"
- "No one...among mankind"

This language is similar to what we see in **Ps. 14:1-3** (also seen in Ps. 53). The apostle Paul will state similar themes and use similar language in the opening chapters of the Book of Romans showing the universal depravity of mankind.

As we continue in Micah 7:2-3 we are told that instead of being godly, righteous men, all men (note that there is no exception indicated) are self-seeking. Jer. 4:22, 13:23.

- **Depravity Seen in Authority (3b-4)**

Micah 7:3 details Judah's leaders' depravity as we read.

Micah then adds that the great man – the powerful man – speaks the evil desire of his soul and then we're told "thus they weave it together."

Micah further highlights the injury that these leaders in verse 4.

Briers and thorn hedges cause injury when encountered.

These rulers and leaders were also to provide direction to the people. Instead of heeding God's warnings these rulers and leaders continued in their schemes and once God's judgement comes upon the nation their response will only be confusion.

- **Depravity Seen in Friends and Family (5-6)**

This description displays that the pervasiveness of Judah's depravity has permeated to the relationships which one could say form the very foundation of society. Jer. 9:4-6, Matt. 10:34-36, Lk. 12:51-53.

### **III. Confident Hope Declared (7)**

With the words that open verse 7 - "But as for me" – we see Micah's focus turn from his sorrow and the depravity that he sees around him to God.

*What does verse 7 look like in the life of the Christian?*

*What truths are displayed in this passage and how should we apply these truths to our lives?*