

Hear Now What the LORD Says

Selections from Micah

A “minor” prophet but a major word

We all too often miss what God is saying through part of his word that is short, or through someone we don't hear often of or even know about.

Yet some of God's strongest words, deepest truths come through the men and women of God that the world and even the church know very little about

Who do we listen to?

What do we regard as the word of God?

Does it have to come from a particular vessel? The usual? The daily bread? Or are we willing to break out and visit the word of God that is not on every sign, in every book, but is left somewhere between what we know of the old testament and what we know of the new?

Micah 1:1-13

Jothan, Ahaz, Hezekiah - Kings of Judah, not the best folks
Concerning both Jerusalem and Samaria

The LORD is coming out of his place

(christophany with Abraham on the way to Sodom... we'll hopefully see soon)

What causes God to get up, out of his throne, and come down to Earth?

Wickedness done by his people.

He will not STAND for wickedness in his house

Picture of the last days, when Jesus comes down

But it was also literal for that time. It wasn't the end of the world, but it would be the end of these people if they continued in wickedness

[2Pe 3:9 NKJV] 9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

[Ecc 5:8 NKJV] 8 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.

God not only sees the wickedness done on earth, but he also will not put up with it forever

This week - palm Sunday. The triumphal entry

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19

Everyone thought he was coming to reign on Earth...but God could not and would not reign over a wicked kingdom. Wickedness, sin and death had to be dealt with first.

At the cross of Jesus. The culmination of God's judgment and God's mercy in a single event

Mercy devo

Better, more powerful, than any other event, anything you or I could do good or bad stands no chance in the sight of that eternal work in one slice of temporal time of the Lord

- **Lands as a result of sin**
- **High places - groves**
- **Idols**

The worship of the flesh, the false and the things we love

Most populous and pompous places - Matthew Henry

The reality of sin is that it is shameful. It does reveal your nakedness. (The Garden)

God's people think it unfair, don't want to listen, don't like to read hard words of God to them. We all think we're the church of Philadelphia...a little strength, a lot of love, holding onto God. BUt are we really? Or are we more Laodecia, ready to be spit out by God, or Thyatira Jezebell false prophetess

Micah 2:1-7

Oh the evil and their plans. Always devising always scheming

Sounds a lot like Congress! All of these laws being rushed through without time for the people they supposedly represent to make their voice heard

[Pro 1:10-19 KJV] 10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. 11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: 12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: 13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: 14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: 15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: 16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. 18 And they lay wait for their [own] blood; they lurk privily for their [own] lives. 19 So [are] the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; [which] taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

[Pro 4:14-18 KJV] 14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil [men]. 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. 16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause [some] to fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the just [is] as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Prophecy ye not! They say.

[2Ti 4:1-3, 5 KJV] 1 I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ... 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Do not despise prophecy!

Media figures despising Christianity, the Bible

[1Th 5:16-22 KJV] 16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesyings. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Rejoicing, praying, prophesying...

Quench not the spirit!

Micah 3:1-9

Oh, the calling of a prophet

Saying hard things, enduring hard things, your very life being a picture of God's message

The ultimate Prophet- Jesus (he fulfilled the law and the prophets)

[Mat 11:20-24 KJV] 20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

God wouldn't give a hard message if he didn't want them to do the hard thing and repent!

**V8 - but TRULY I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord
Micah knew where his fire was coming from, the Holy Spirit himself**

We must let Him burn in us!

[1Co 9:16-18 KJV] 16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation [of the gospel] is committed unto me. 18 What is my reward then? [Verily] that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

[Jer 20:8-11 KJV] 8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. 9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But [his word] was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not [stay]. 10 For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, [say they], and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, [saying], Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. 11 But the LORD [is] with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: [their] everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

The Word of God MUST Get out of us. We must be submitted to it! We must not hold it captive!

So many prophets were held captive, but the word of God cannot be contained

Even in just the sheer amount that he does, we can't even contain it in the Word

[Jhn 21:25 KJV] 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

It's still going on today! The Holy Spirit has not stopped working! Jesus has not stopped living! The Father has not stopped being merciful!

There's plenty to proclaim!

Micah 6:1-8

We so often complain and contend against God, but he's the one who was complaining to do!

What do we bring before God?

Saul/sacrifice

[1Sa 15:22-23 KJV] 22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from [being] king.

David/temple , samuel's word but then the LORD's word

[2Sa 7:5-9, 15 KJV] 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in [any] house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 In all [the places] wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great [men] that [are] in the

earth. ... 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

[Mic 6:8 NKJV] 8 He has shown you, O man, what [is] good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Jesus rode in on a donkey (peaceful symbol) already

He's coming back on horse (symbol of war)

Is the house of God ready?

Let him have his triumphal entry into His house today, in your heart, in mine, in the church

His house is a house of prayer

- I know we'd all find out a lot sooner that we don't need to be doing certain things for him
- We can cut out this program, and that activity, and this direction
- And focus on this thing, or that thing
- Turn away from this thing that the world loves that the church has adopted

And to take up our cross and follow him. Daily.

[Luk 9:23-31 KJV] 23 And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and [in his] Father's, and of the holy angels. 27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God. 28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. 29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment [was] white [and] glistening. 30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: 31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Moses and Elijah, they knew what was coming as if it had already happened to them
Spoke of his decease...exodus...departure...death (remember passover?)

The law and the prophets agree...The prophesied even there on the mount

That the triumphal entry was not just about the earthly kingdom, but to the heavenly one - He would be coronated and led to his earthly throne...the cross

Only to receive a far greater eternal throne. And he waits for the time to get us, that we might make his real triumphal entry laid down with palm branches, clothes and songs, as we enter his kingdom.

But if we're not living in his Kingdom now...like those in Micah's day...we need to do the hard thing and repent

For he's returning soon.

[Mar 13:23-29 NKJV] 23 "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. 24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 "the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. 28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near--at the doors!

We will see him return.

Micah 7:1-7

These are the unsafe days.

China...a pinhole into reality

The leader rising up, taking away all rights of dissent

It will happen here (it is happening here, too)

It will happen with the final world ruler

It will not be safe. It is getting to that point for conservatives as a whole but one day Christians will be the only singled out group

UK - christian 'extremist'

V7 - therefore I will look unto the LORD

Micah 7:15-20

Even after all of this, God promises to use Israel to confound the world, to show his mercy in the last days.

Who is a God that does this? There is only one God who would...everyone else would never be this merciful