

Mikhah – Part 7

Third Discourse – Part 2

Misery of Judah's Son

7¹ Woe to me! for I have become like the leavings of summer fruit, like the gleanings when the vintage is finished - there isn't a cluster worth eating, no early-ripened fig that appeals to me. ² The godly have been destroyed from the land, there is no one upright among humankind. They all lie in wait for blood; each hunts his brother with a net. ³ Their hands do evil well. The prince makes his request, the judge grants it for a price, and the great man expresses his evil desires - thus they weave it together. ⁴ The best of them is a briar, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge. The time of your watchmen - of your punishment -has come; now they will be confused. ⁵ Don't trust in your neighbor; don't put confidence in a close friend; shut the gates of your mouth even from [your wife], lying there with you in bed. ⁶ For a son insults his father, a daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — a person's enemies are the members of his own household.

As **Mikhah's** society disintegrated, he wept. Like a field already harvested, **Mikhah** found no fruit left in his ministry. No **godly** or **upright** people were left in the land, and the moral fabric of society had decayed. He saw bloodshed, evil, bribes, and wicked plots. It was a time of crisis and **panic**. Homes and family relationships had disintegrated to the point that no man could trust **a friend** or even his wife. Children dishonored and rebelled against their parents, making family members their **enemies**.

7⁷ But as for me, I will look to Adonai, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

Mikhah cried out to God, asking Him to transform his nation. Demonstrating personal intimacy with God, **Mikhah** declared that he would **look to the Lord** and **wait for the God** of his **salvation**, stating confidently that *my God will hear me*.

The Renewal of Israel

In the following verses, **Mikhah's** message looked past the coming defeat and destruction (1:1–16) to the future day when the **Lord** would reverse that judgment. Repentant people would be raised again (7:8–9). Enemies would be defeated, and **Isra'el** would be rebuilt (vv. 10–11). The exiles would be gathered (v. 12), and a new exodus would take place (v. 15). Because of His promise to **Avraham** (v. 20), **God** would forgive sinners who deserved no mercy (vv. 18–19). **God** always keeps His promises.

8⁸ Enemies of mine, don't gloat over me! Although I have fallen, I will rise; though I live in the dark, Adonai is my light. I will endure Adonai's rage, because I sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and judges in my favor. Then he will bring me out to the light, and I will see his justice. ¹⁰ My enemies will see it too, and shame will cover those who said to me, "Where is Adonai your God?" I will gloat over them, as they are trampled underfoot like mud in the streets. ¹¹ That will be the day for rebuilding your walls, a day for expanding your territory, ¹² a day when [your] people will come [back] to you from Ashur and from the cities of Egypt, from Egypt and from as far as the Euphrates River, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain. ¹³ The earth will be desolate for those living in it, as a result of their deeds.

Prayer and Praise

¹⁴ Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock that belongs to you, who live alone, like a forest in the middle of a fertile pasture. Let them feed in Bashan and Gil'ad, as they did in days of old. ¹⁵ "As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show them wonders." ¹⁶ The nations will see and be put to shame, in spite of all their power. They will cover their mouths with their hands, and their ears will be deafened. ¹⁷ They will lick the dust like snakes; they will emerge from their fortresses trembling like reptiles that crawl about on the earth; they will come with fear to Adonai our God, afraid because of you. ¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning the sin and overlooking the crimes of the remnant of his heritage? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in grace. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us, he will subdue our iniquities. You will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will show truth to Ya'akov and grace to Avraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors since days of long ago. ¹

Mikhah closes his prophecy with a song of praise to **God**, extolling His **mercy, forgiveness, compassion, faithfulness**, and **steadfast love**.

In our next post, we will begin to learn about the **Prophecy of Nachum (Nahum)**.

¹ Mikhah 7:1–20.