

2. You haven't seen anything yet

December 10, 2009

The Book of Micah can be divided into three sections. Chapter 1 and 2 for the first portion; and chapter 3, 4 and 5 for the second portion and the last portion would contain chapter 6 and 7. One common thing about these three portions is that they all start with the same word in Hebrews – 'shama' which means "to hear with attention or interest". It means to listen intently, paying attention in listening. This is not a casual hearing of some noise in the background.

The Lord is demanding that we listen carefully. We find the same kind of command in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 2:7a He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Jesus also said in the same manner 10 times throughout the Gospel when He wants us to pay attention to Him.

Micah's second message is at the heart of the Book and focuses on Israel's future. It goes from a bad news to a good news, then it goes back to another bad news – back and forth. It is almost like watching a contemporary movie.

The old fashion movies or even TV news programs used to have single camera view. Now, people don't have much patience for that. So, the movie makers and news people use R.T.C. – Rapid Technical Changes – to give different views and angles. In some fast action movies, they have 4 to 5 cameras running at the same time to show different shots and different actions.

Here prophet Micah tells us what these horrible rulers in Israel are doing to their people. Then the next moment he talks about the Lord establishing His dominion in the future. It is pretty much like Micah is telling us that we haven't seen anything yet, there are more to come.

A. THE SINS OF THE LEADERS

Micah 3:1-4 And I said: "Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice? 2 You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones; 3 Who also eat the flesh of My people, Flay their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them in pieces Like meat for the pot, Like flesh in the caldron." 4 Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds.

The leaders of Israel hated good and loved evil. They were not concerned about the benefits of their people, but only theirs. Leaders are supposed to love the good and hate the evil, but these men, wolves in sheep clothing, were just the opposite.

When I came to the United States, Ronald Reagan was the President of the United States. He was a good conservative. As I am getting older, I am getting less and less of a Republican as the Republican Party is becoming more and more liberal than I care them to be. As you know I am certainly not a Democrat. I stand against just about everything their party is pursuing now.

Don't think that the Democrats and Republicans are really concerned about the American citizens welfare. What they are really concerned about is having the power to make the country the way they want so that they can have more wealth, power and fame without any resistance from anyone. That is the precise reason why the liberals want their gun control law to be in affect.

Every time we go through election period, I don't want to vote for either party. I can not wait for the Lord Jesus to return to set up the true government that will be run by God Himself.

Please note what v4 says.

v4 Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds.

When they cry out for God's help, He will remain silent. One aspect of the blessing pronounced by the priests of Israel was they asked the LORD to make His face shine upon you according to Numbers 6:25. Here, Micah promises the opposite of this blessing – that God would even hide His face from them at that time. Their prayers would bounce off their ceilings – literally talking to the wall.

Since they turned their deaf ears to what the Lord said to them through prophets, He was turning His deaf ear to them. A fitting consequence from the Lord for them. We need to learn a valuable lesson from these people. We must listen and obey what the Lord tells us. Otherwise, our prayers will be in vain.

B. FULL OF POWER BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

Micah 3:8 But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin.

On the contrary to these false prophets of Micah's time who claimed that the Lord would protect them and they would have peace, Micah declares that he is filled with the Holy Spirit. What a contrasting statement to make right after he declared how corrupt their leaders and prophets were!

How desperately we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our churches! Many of the American Protestant churches would rather substitute the power of the Holy Spirit with dramas, music, fancy multimedia presentations and compromising messages that would scratch their congregation's itching ears. By doing so, they are cheating themselves out of the blessings of God.

Few men are as pitiable as those who claim to have a call from God but who tailor their sermons to please the people. They are spiritual prostitutes. Their first rule is "Don't rock the boat" and their second is "Give the people what they want." But a true servant of God declares God's message regardless of whether people like it or not. He'd like to be a peacemaker, but sometimes he has to be a troublemaker.

Any theology that makes it easy for us to sin is not biblical theology. A good example of unbiblical theology is the indulgence during the Medieval time. How convenient for those people to purchase forgiveness from the priests before they even committed sins – a license to sin! Even if they sinned without getting an indulgence, no problem. They thought that there was no sin that could not be wiped clean with an extra offering.

We, too, now have modern day indulgence in the Protestant churches, a.k.a., seeker sensitive theology and Emergency churches and the Universal Salvation theology.

C. THE LORD'S REIGN IN ZION

Micah 4:1-3 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. 2 Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 3 He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Without a warning, Micah shifts his camera angle to the distant future when there will be a new Jerusalem and a rebuilt temple at the heart of the righteous kingdom of Messiah. The period known as "the last days or Kingdom Age" began with the ministry of Christ and will climax with His return to establish His kingdom on earth.

Israel and Judah were in the brink of total destruction by Assyria and Babylon. The prophet was encouraging them to look ahead to what God had promised for His chosen people.

Our country's military budget is 54% of the total income from the tax payers – It is \$1.44 trillion per year. Each tactical Tomahawk cruise missile that is produced by Raytheon in Tucson costs the U.S. taxpayers \$569,000 and its program which was started in 1970s by General Dynamics cost the United States over 11 billion dollars. Yes, we spend enormous amounts of money in on weapons to defend ourselves from the threats around the world.

Military budget bankrupts a nation. It brought down the Soviet Union and it is the reason why we have the huge deficit, not to mention the wasteful Stimulus money Obama and the Democrats contributed while they put blame on George W. Bush.

V3 is written above the door of the United Nation, a.k.a. the United Nothing, in New York City. Somehow the majority of the disillusioned politicians and diplomats actually think that they can make peace through their own negotiations among themselves. There won't be a true peace until Jesus, the Price of Peace, returns to rule and reign on this earth.

D. THE PROMISED DELIVERANCE AND CONQUEST

Again, Micah's camera angle jumped back to their current period in v9 and 10. Micah calls the city of Jerusalem as "daughter of Zion". Had the Jewish leaders listened to the Prophet Jeremiah and peacefully surrendered to the Babylonians, they would have saved the city and the temple, but they resisted God's will, and their city and temple were ruined. However, Jeremiah promised that the exile would last only seventy years, and then the remnant could return and rebuild the city and the temple.

In v11-13, Micah turns back his camera to the distant future, the end times when his people being attacked by many Gentile nations. They are so sure that they are going to destroy Israel once and for all with satan's help in Revelation 20:7-9.

Revelation 20:7-9 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of

the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Sweden is pushing hard to pass an initiative this coming Sunday, December 13th, 2009, to persuade 27 foreign ministers of European Union states to endorse a plan to recognize unilaterally East Jerusalem as the capital of a new Palestinian State. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, is doing everything he can to counter the Swedish effort.

The Bible teaches that the God of Israel has specifically chosen Jerusalem to be the capital of the Jewish people and His own prized possession. It is not to be carved up like a Thanksgiving turkey and these nations are only fighting against God's will.

Psalm 132:13-15 For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: 14 "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. 15 I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

E. THE COMING MESSIAH

Micah 5:2-5a "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

In this time of humiliation under foreign powers, God would raise up a great Ruler from a humble place – Bethlehem. Bethlehem was well known as the hometown of David, Israel's greatest king. Yet it was never a great or influential city. It was truly little among the thousands of Israel. Yet God chose it as the birthplace of the Messiah, the Ruler in Israel. Bethlehem means "House of Bread", and Jesus is the Bread of Life in John 6:35.

After the wise men left to go see the Baby in Bethlehem, king Herod asked his own wise guys, the chief priest and scribes where the Christ was supposed to be born. They quoted v2 right off the bat. If these scribes really believed what they knew, they would have jumped to their feet to go down to Bethlehem, which was located 5.5 miles south of Jerusalem. Though their knowledge for the Messiah was on the tips of their tongues, their love for Him was far away from their hearts.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. This means that Jesus was there before time ever existed. There was never a time when the Lord Jesus did not exist.

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He existed as the Second Person of the Trinity. The passage tells us that there was a relationship of love, fellowship, and shared glory that the Father and the Son shared in eternity past.

Though the name "Jesus" was not known as a name for the Second Person of the Trinity until the angel Gabriel announced it to Mary, the eternal Son.

F. JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

For the rest of chapter 5, Micah turns his camera back and forth between the destruction of Israel's current enemy Assyria and their future enemies. As the Lord promised, He protects Israel to the end.

God has not cast aside His people. For today, there is a believing remnant of Jews in the church. One day, God will gather the unbelieving Jewish nation to their land, cause them to experience great suffering, and then reveal Himself to them and give birth to a new nation. The prophets saw that day and tried to convey its message to the people of their day, but they wouldn't listen.

Christians today look for Jesus to return to gather His people to Himself and then establish His righteous kingdom. Future hope ought to produce present holiness.

2 Peter 3:10-11 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness

Are we ready for His return?