

Micah 7

1 I wonder if this verse was on Jesus' mind when He cursed the fig tree in Mark 11:12? He had come for the fruit of the nation of Israel. Consider all that God had invested in those people and yet they had turned it into legalism. Consider how much God has invested in us – especially us here in the USA? Have we produced bunches of grapes and early figs (the fruit of the Spirit that God longs to see in our lives) or misery in the heart of God?

2 Where are the godly men that are a living testimony? Don't we have the same problem today? Everyone is out to make a profit on his neighbor, using others for personal gain. Greed had captured their hearts and is capturing many today.

3 When those in power are not there to serve, then they will lead in a corrupt manner. The bottom line is personal gain, whether financial or influence. They conspire with others who are also out for personal gain. Allying yourself with the treacherous is likely to end in disaster for you.

4 It is a sticky situation. Taking hold of them will injure you. The watchmen see the judgements of God approaching. Justice is about to be served by God.

5 Man is not trustworthy. Only God is dependable. Jesus understood this fully. See John 2:24,25 When a nation is falling, treachery is everywhere as people fight for survival. After the war in France, there was a settling of scores toward those had chosen to survive by compromising with Germany. There will be a heavenly day of reckoning when man will have to account for turning in Christians.

6 Quoted by Jesus in Matthew 10:35-37. This is true whenever there is oppression or war – a fight for survival. Satan was speaking the truth about man's heart when he said, "Skin for skin! A man will give all he has for his own life." (Job 3:4)

7 Instead of trusting man, even those closest to you, Micah looks to God. What do you think it means to wait for God? He believed God would hear his prayers. What prayers? For justice on the wicked? For protection in the days of judgement? Can we apply these verses or are they only for times of judgement?

8 There is a break in the text here and a new beginning that looks forward to future restoration. It seems as if Israel is speaking. Compare verse 8 with Isaiah 60:1-3.

9 The intercession of the LORD is the reason Israel is restored. We can count on that same intercession when we are going through His wrath, the consequences of our sins. The only reasons I have a right or a case are the promises of God.

10 Those who took Judah captive were taken captive themselves. What they did to Judah they experienced first hand when their enemies conquered them. We can be sure that those who mistreat us will also reap what they have sown. We can leave them in God's hands for vengeance is His; He will repay.

11 Nehemiah was there to fulfill this verse.

12 - 13 Is this the ultimate fulfillment?

14 Another break in thought comes here. Looking forward to the time of restoration and the Shepherd of Israel. When Jesus spoke the words of John 10 He was telling them He is the Shepherd.

15 There will be mighty miracles again. The greatest period of miracles came when people were offered redemption from bondage, Moses in Egypt, and Jesus for all mankind.

16 – 17 Again there is the intermediate fulfillment under Jesus in the first coming and the ultimate fulfillment when He comes again. You can see why they got the two comings combined in their ideology. Isaiah 52:15

18 What an awesome verse. God punishes sin, but He has a merciful heart and also pardons sin and forgives. He delights to show mercy. He doesn't want to judge us. Man forces God to discipline him. If we would just listen, we would always be shown mercy.

19 They would experience God's compassion again in the fullest way – through the cross of Jesus. Through that cross all their iniquities of the remnant would be cast into the depths of the sea.

20 God keeps His promises. This fits in well with Will's sermon. See Romans 8:6