



Micah

Micah 6:1-8 -The Lord's Indictment & Micah's Response

- Review - *Micah 5:10-15* - The Purification of Zion
 - Modified from The Bible Says:
 - The last task of the Messiah-Ruler during the Messianic Kingdom will be to purify Israel of their reliance on earthly things for their existence and peace.
 - He will remove the people's trust in military might.
 - He will *tear down all your fortifications* (fortified cities) because they were places of refuge in times of danger.
 - He will remove every trace of the practice of false religion from their midst.
 - He will also destroy the symbols of pagan worship in the land.
 - He will *execute vengeance in anger and wrath On the nations which have not obeyed.*



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- *Micah 6:1,2 - Hear now what the LORD says:
“Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
And let the hills hear your voice. Hear, O you
mountains, the LORD’s complaint,
And you strong foundations of the earth;
For the LORD has a complaint against His people,
And He will contend with Israel.*
 - Why is Micah stating that the LORD is directing the nation to *contend before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice?*
 - Could this be in preparation for a jury trial with the LORD being the prosecuting attorney?
 - The mountains and hills refer to the heavens and/or are they could be witnesses to Israel's shortcomings.
 - » *Isaiah 1:2 - Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;*



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– *Isaiah 43:26 - Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together;
State your case, that you may be acquitted.*

- ***Micah 6:3 - O my people, what have I done unto thee?
and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.***
 - *O my people.....* – how outreaching, pleading, regretful.
 - Isn't this a mistaken interpretation of trials and tribulations from our earthly position?
 - Lord, why have you made my life so miserable?
 - Again, a courtroom-like drama, and how rhetorical!
 - *Isa 5:4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?*
 - *Jer 2:5 - Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?*
- ***Micah 6:4 - For I brought you up out of the land of***



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*Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of servants;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.*

- How should we interpret *the house of servants*?
 - *Deut 15:15 - “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.*
- Why not only Moses, but *Aaron and Miriam* also?
- And look how many times the Lord reminds us about taking Israel out of Egypt
 - *Exo 12:51, Exo 14:30-31, Exo 20:2; Deu 4:20, Deu 4:34, Deu 5:6, Deu 9:26; Neh 9:9-11; Psa 78:51-53, Psa 106:7-10, Psa 136:10-11; Isa 63:9-12; Jer 32:21; Eze 20:5-9; Amo 2:10; Act 7:36*
- Aaron served them as their first high priest and Miriam was a prophetess but why not others?
 - *Expd 28”1 - “Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest,*



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– *Exod 15:20, 21 - And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.*

- Yet, something we forget and perhaps need to?

– *Num 12:1 - Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.*

- ***Micah 6:5 - O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.***

– *O my peopleis repeated here?*

- The constant reminder of God's mercy and judgment.

– Who is this *Balak, king of Moab?*

– Who is this *Balaam son of Beor?*



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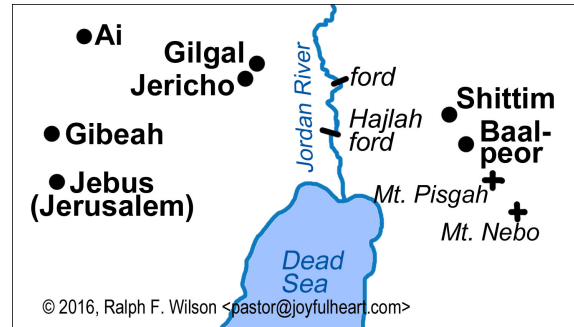
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- Constable – ‘Yahweh charged the Israelites to remember that Balak, king of Moab, wanted God to curse His people, but Balaam revealed that God would never do that (*Num. 22—24*). God's intentions for His people had consistently been good. The events of their crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land showed the same thing. Shittim was the Israelites' last camping place before they crossed the Jordan, and Gilgal was where they camped first after crossing (*Josh. 3:1; 4:18-19*). God had always done what was consistent with His covenant obligations to His people, never burdening them but always protecting, defending, and enabling them. He had lovingly led them from slavery in a hostile foreign land to settlement in their own comfortable country (cf. *Josh. 24; 1 Sam. 12*).’
 - *Num 22:5 – He (Balak) sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me;*



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- J-F-B – ‘from Shittim unto Gilgal – not that Balaam accompanied Israel to Gilgal for he was slain in Midian (*Num 31:8*), but the clause applies to Balaam. Shittim was the scene of Balaam’s wicked counsel taking effect in Israel’s sin, whereby Israel merited utter destruction but for God’s sparing mercy, to Gilgal, the place of Israel’s first encampment in the promised land where God renewed the covenant via circumcision (*Jos 5:2011*).’
 - Without going into detail, Balaam was a man who professed obedience to the Lord but grappled with a greedy heart and fell far short.
 - *Rev 2:14 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*



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- And all of this was evident of God's historic and undeserved kindness to a guilty nation.
- ***Micah 6:6 - Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?***
 - Was this what God required of Micah and/or Israel?
 - What about *calves of a year old*, a special offering - passover?
 - *Exod 12:5 - Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:*
 - *Lev 9:1,2 - And it came to pass on the eighth day, that Moses called Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel; And he said unto Aaron, **Take thee a young calf for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD.***
- ***Micah 6:7 - Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my***



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body for the sin of my soul?

–Why this robust reply, was this necessary?

–I'm sure that Micah did not believe that these sacrifices would please God, but used them as examples of ritual worship that he thought Israelites believed might satisfy God.

–Of interest, the Jews offered human sacrifices to Baal in the valley of Hinnom.

– *Jer 19:5 - They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:*

- *Micah 6:8 - He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*



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- Why is this posed as a question?
- Martin as he concludes from the writings of many minor prophets – ‘In view of God’s dealings with their great ancestor and the grace extended to him, they are exhorted to turn to the Lord—to keep kindness and justice, including duties to man; and wait for their God, comprising duties to God. The order is that of Micah 6:8.’
- Constable – ‘This verse contains one of the most succinct and powerful expressions of Yahweh's essential requirements in the Bible (cf. *Matt. 22:37-39; 23:23; 1Cor. 13:4; 2 Cor. 6:6; Col. 3:12; James 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:2; 5:5*).’
 - *Heb 10:1 - For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*