

Sermon for Nov 1, 2020, "My God will certainly hear me", Micah 1:1

Introduction: Lord's message to Micah

Over the past few weeks, I have preached through the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. I preached about Hosea who cried out God's unchanging love, about Joel who proclaimed the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord, about Amos who preached what God's justice is, and Obadiah who pointed out the pride of Edom. Today I will preach from the book of Micah.

Today's text Micah 1:1 says, "The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Sama'ria and Jerusalem."

This passage was written by the editor of Micah to introduce the book of Micah. Micah is a rural man named Moresheth, who lived about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Jerusalem. However, he spent most of his life in Jerusalem. Micah's period of activity overlaps with that of Hosea, Amos, and Isaiah. The prophet Micah spoke God's word to both Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Micah says of his calling: **"But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin."**(Micah 3:8)

As Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8, **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Also, Micah's name means "Who is like God?". This means that no one is like God. We clearly see that there is no one like God in the book of Micah. Let's look at what Micah says about God.

Body: There is no one like God

1. No one judges like God

First, Micah refers to how there is no one who judges like God. Other Minor Prophets, as well as Micah, refer to God's judgment. We may be uncomfortable with God's judgment, but the Old Testament's frequently emphasizes how His judgment is not to condemn and punish us. Rather, it is to save and reward us. I hope that all of you will always keep this in mind and think of the message of the Old Testament.

One of the themes of Micah is God's judgment, which comes from Micah Chapter 1.

If we look closely at this judgment, we can see that no one judges like God. Here, too, we can clearly see the method of God's judgment. Let's look at **Micah 1:3, "For behold, the LORD is coming forth out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth."**

This passage refers to how God treads upon the high places of the earth. The high places are the center of idolatry in Judah. Also, the high places are the most sacred of places, where everyone wants to climb, and where everyone fears, yet everyone wants to keep it.

What are the high places to us? Aren't they success, wealth, and prosperity? But when these become our idol, God doesn't mind punishing for it.

Let's see Micah 1:7, "All her images shall be beaten to pieces, all her hires shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste; for from the hire of a harlot she gathered them, and to the hire of a harlot they shall return."

This verse makes it clear that God is the one who judges everything.

This means that God does not overlook responsibility for what we have done in our lives. We may believe that when we die, we will not be responsible for all the wrongdoings we have done in our lives. But the Bible says that our thinking is wrong. God asks to the end what we are responsible for.

Finally, God's method of judgment is to judge after long-suffering. If you look at the history of Israel, you can see that they broke God's command not to serve idols and yet were with idols from beginning to end. Of course, they repent and try to find holiness again, but the Israelites have been with idols throughout history. But God endured the abomination of the Israelites.

So, **2 Peter chapter 3 verses 8 through 10 speak of God's character as follows. "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."** Therefore, we must always be ready to stand before God as Christian.

Why did the prophet Micah go on to say that there is no another God like you? (Micah 7:18)

2. God wants us to be changed.

Second, God really wants us to be changed to be holy. In the book of Micah, the most important things the prophets and the Bible deal with are summarized. Micah 6:6-8 is exactly that. Micah first asks the following questions:

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?"(Micah 6:6)

"Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"(Micah 6:7)

This verse presents the best possible sacrifice. But what God wants is not the best sacrifice. Let's look at the following Micah 6:8. The answer comes out. **"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"(Micah 6:8)**

Justice and love make up God's character. And God wants fellowship with us. In fact, we act more self-centered than concerned with justice. We prefer to hate than to love. And we are stingy about our fellowship with God. The Lord wants all this to change.

We are saved by the blood of Jesus' cross. And we are beings who live by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, without close fellowship with the Lord, we are dead.

Therefore, we must dwell in the Lord every day, obey the Lord, and grow in the Lord. Then we can gain true wisdom and live in peace. Why did Micah keep saying that there is no such thing as God?

3. There is no one we can rely on like God.

Finally, there is no one in the world to rely on like God. Micah's prayer comes from the last chapter of the book of **Micah chapter 7 verse 7, "But as for me, I will look to the LORD, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me."**(Micah 7:7)

And in Micah 7:8-9, a strong trust in God comes out.

"Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me."(Micah 7:8)

"I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I shall behold his deliverance."(Micah 7:9)

God's children have temporary difficulties, but ultimately they are victorious.

So what is the reason for this confidence? This appears in the last verse of Micah.

"Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as thou hast sworn to our fathers from the days of old."(Micah 7:20)

God's sincerity is strong and unchanging. And God's love is a covenant love for us. God has sworn to continue giving this to us. So, we experience the light even in the dark and rise again when we fall.

Conclusion: God will certainly hear me

Now, let's summarize today's sermon. We look for people in our lives who listen to what we say. Because we want someone who listens to our story and can be on our side. Also, we want someone who listens and understands us. That's why we like people who listen better than people who talk a lot.

Is there anyone around you who listens to your story? They may be husbands, wives, parents, children, friends, or pets. But we always feel inadequate.

But there is someone who really listens to our story. It is the Lord. Sometimes God's judgments give us fear. Also, God's demands for change make our selfish nature uncomfortable.

But don't forget that the only one we trust and depend on is the Lord who certainly hears us.

The book of Micah wants to say this clearly to us. So, I hope to be someone who always lives with courage and is thankful to God.