

## **26<sup>th</sup> March 2006: O.T. Review: Micah→Its Standout Verses**

### **The book....not really a hard book to read or understand**

**The first** verse tells us about the prophet.....and the time period  
1:1.... (Moresheth) ( 3 kings) (Isaiah and Hosea)

& we know from Jer 26:18-19 that he was successful.....

### **The second verse tells us what the vision ....is all about::: v 2.....**

The “against you”....refers to God’s people→nations of Israel/Judah...their capitals

**THE Sovereign Lord** calls them to face Him in His courtroom  
With all the peoples of the earth as the jury  
**He bears** witness against their sins.....before the judgment is pronounced

*This courtroom illustration is further developed in chapter 6.....(Key chapter)  
Look at 6:1-2.....*

**This charge against His people.....is outlined in chapters 1—3**  
**Where imminent judgment** is also prophesied

### **THERE WE FIND THAT:→**

- The people of God had become idol worshippers.....So 1:7 says
- Society had become extremely unjust & corrupt.....2:1-2.....3:1-3...
- The prophets turned a blind eye.....said that everything was wonderful  
.while some would tell you anything you wanted.....for a bottle....good feed.

Now of course Micah.....Was very different to such official Prophets  
His commissioning was from God alone.....Brutally honest ....Not at all popular  
He says of his own ministry→ 3:8

**This Book Of Micah however.....not all Judgment**

Especially in chapters 4-5 we read about.....**The Ultimate Blessing that is promised**

**Look at 4:1-5.....**

**Now of course.....these verses relate to the Coming of the Messiah**

And in 5:2 we find that amazing prophecy that we turn to each Christmas ➔ **5:2....**

*(talking to one of our senior.....senior friend church goer for years.....All a myth*

*Thought to myself how sad.....sat through church.....yet could think that !*

*When this prophecy.....proclaimed 700 years before.....Existed in written form  
centuries bf Christ.....And was referred to by Jewish scholars when the wise men....)*

**Prophecies like this one.....confirm Jesus as God's chosen Messiah**

And those who refused to accept Him as God's Son...their Saviour

**Book** themselves a place in God's courtroom one day.....to explain such a refusal

**Yet another promise of Ultimate blessing is found in 4:4-5....**

**So the book of Micah declares Imminent Judgment upon Israel and Judah**

And even mentions who will be the instruments of that judgment

**It also predicts** a future time of great blessing.....Messiah comes

**And Thirdly.....the book of Micah pleads**...for the people to repent...esp in 6-7

**To change** their ways and look to God in hope

Because God is such a gracious and merciful

**And in this book of Micah we find some beautiful testimonies to the Lord**

**Look at 7:7....Micah's own personal testimony.....**

Then especially 7:18—19.....

(Is that how you know God this morning.....Sign NO FISHING)

**God is indeed so Gracious....So loving.....So willing to forgive**  
But He is also a God.....who has expectations of His children

**Micah put such expectation very clearly in 6:8.....**  
Its all part of the Courtroom scene

**God declares in v3-5 all His goodness to His people...in rescuing Egypt...Giving hope**  
**The people then ask what God wants from them in return...v6-7.....**

**Verse 8 is the answer.....**

**Let us imagine this morning**.....That it is us in God's Courtroom  
I have saved you from your personal Egypt....slavery to sin ...death...hell's judgment  
**And what do I seek from you**.....in your life on earth....says God

*That you act justly and love mercy  
Walk humbly with me as your God*

**I believe that here at Craigie**.....we put a lot of energy....rightly so....in teaching  
In encouraging.....and in living out a humble walk with God:: Knowing Him...

**And as a church** we are seeking to make a diff.....in the lives of those who suffer  
**But it is in** ....acting justly and loving mercy.....that we could all do so much more

**In 2004.....Micah Challenge was launched.....based on this verse**  
Calling Christians to make a difference.....**To pray for**.....To actively seek  
Ways of defeating poverty.....Of bringing justice

*(Quotes from Micah Challenge.....Just recently I received.....\$20 per month)*

**The book of Micah challenges us** ....as believers to do what the Lord requires of us  
In the areas of loving mercy.....seeking justice

**Commit ourselves to PRAY...BE INFORMED...BE OPEN TO ACT AS Lord directs**

