

Future Victory through Present Brokenness

Micah 7:8-17

Introduction – Micah cannot stop at verse 7, “My God will hear me”, but this theme must now be played out with a glorious crescendo of the forgiveness and restoration of God’s people, of the wrath of God’s justice upon His enemies, and the expansion of God’s kingdom.

Victory Embedded in Confession (vv8-10) – Verse 9 is the centerpiece here of confession and deliverance, with v8 and 10 on either side declaring the destruction of Jerusalem’s enemies.

The Lord My Light (v8) – Micah speaks, representing Israel as ‘Lady Jerusalem’ (all the pronouns are in the feminine), against her enemy’s scorn. Certainly, the exile and return are in the short view. But once again, these words are truly fulfilled in Christ who would not break a ‘bruised reed’ (Is 42:3), and who would be the Light to men in the midst of darkness (John 1:4-5).

The Lord My Redeemer (v9) – “Because I have sinned” is truly understood when we bear with any of the Lord’s chastisements. “Because I have acknowledged my sin” is to know that Another will grant me true righteousness. This is the essence of Christian brokenness and boldness before the throne of God.

‘To the Light’ – I see His righteousness because I see His anger at my sin and His graciousness to forgive and atone for it. I hold both together so that I do not despair over His anger, nor presume upon His grace.

The Lord My Avenger (v10) – Assyria, and later Babylon, become like an axe that boasts over the One who chops with it (Is 10:15). Attributing their victories to the power of their own arm, and in scornful defiance of the living God, their wages are coming.

Victory in Expansion (vv11-13) – Security and fruitfulness spread to the most unexpected places. These are walls of a vineyard (v11).

“That Day” – As in Chapter 4-5, Micah is declaring these things regarding the ‘last days’, when Christ established His kingdom reign. As we saw, the NT teaches that this was established at the time of Christ’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension (i.e. Heb 1:1, 1 Pet 1:20, etc.).

The Enemies of God – Assyria and Egypt, present and past enemies of God’s people, will turn by the hordes to the Lord. The righteousness and Light of the Lord will spread to the world (Is 42:5-9). Encompassing all the world, ‘from sea to sea...’, the stark contrast to those who do not come to the land of fruitfulness is a desolate land. But the overwhelming sense here is of the borders of the Kingdom victoriously extended far and wide.

Victory Through the Great Shepherd (vv14-17) – God has promised the victory of His Church, and brings it to fruition through His own hand of mercy and judgment

Praying for What is Promised (v14) – Micah asks what already has been promised of Christ (Mic 5:4). ‘Carmel’ means ‘garden of fruit trees’. Bashan and Gilead were agricultural areas of great fertility that became symbols of plenty. It is proper to pray for a return to days of gospel-prosperity, for God has promised such days.

God Answers (v15) – The Lord answers with ‘more than you can ask or imagine’ (Eph 3:20). “Wonders” is not a little word, but reflects the catastrophic wrath of God poured out upon Egypt. The same will be done to nations of arrogance, and the bondage to slavery will again be broken. And what has happened to you in Christ?

Writhing in the Fear of Judgment (v16-17) – The antithesis is being declared here. When God brings His judgment to bear, the castles of the most powerful nations become hell-holes (same word in Psalm 18:45) for serpents, cursed by God, and brought out crawling like charmed snakes licking the ground in fear.

A Call to Brokenness and Boldness – External threats are not your most dangerous enemies. Sin is what brought Israel to ruin. As Micah represents in v9, we must tremble at our sins. There is a time to sit quietly and bear the indignation of our sins. But, according to His grace and the promises to His people, we must not despair utterly. We must root our confidence that this very God of wrath will plead our cause and bring us from the darkness of judgment to the light of life. We must be full of both real repentance and real hope.

Praying ‘With the Grain’ – So often one hears other prayers that are reflected in the Lord’s Prayer – ‘forgive us our debts’ is clear in v9 and ‘Thy kingdom come’ is certainly in v14. God desires us to long for the things He has promised and plead for them in His courts. Our hearts are kept close to Him then in the midst of all trials and afflictions. And as we embrace His promises ‘by faith’ we are able to pray with great boldness and with great effectiveness.

Anticipate and Hunger for the Impossible – Do you long to see the chains of sin broken from your flesh and your practical holiness more manifest? Do you long to see your family or loved ones turned from darkness to light? Do you long to see these cities and this nation return to the Lord and then to see reformation take us even farther? Do you long for the world to be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea? Do you expect to see it?

Dave Hatcher – January 21, 2001