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Message for the Nations

Capitol Commission Bible Study

- **TUESDAYS @ 12 NOON** in 123 CAP
(BASEMENT OF GEORGIA'S STATE CAPITOL)

Members' Bible Fellowship

- **WEDNESDAYS @ 7:15AM** in 107 CAP
(GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM)

The first week of March begins a new exposition in the Old Testament prophetic book of Micah. Capitol Commission will continue to provide an open-to-all Bible study *every Tuesday* during session from 12:00-12:45pm in 123 CAP (and ministry sponsors provide for lunch). The *members' only* Bible Fellowship is held every *Wednesday* (unless not a legislative day) from 7:15-8:00am in 107 CAP (Governor's Conference Room). *The Capitol Commission Bible study and the Members' Bible Fellowship are both nonpartisan and non-denominational.*

For archives of past Bible studies (dating from 2010), please visit <http://www.capitolcom.org/georgia/studies>. **I pray that this study will be edifying to you.** The sole intent of the ministry of Capitol Commission is to serve you, as a resource for pastoral attention, counsel, and prayer. **The present Bible study is just one aspect of that desire to serve.**

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study

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Tuesday, 3 March 2020

Micah 1—2 – “Message for the Nations”

What is your knowledge concerning a prophet? Do you think of someone who tells what is going to occur in the future? Prophets certainly engaged in some foretelling. They did encourage the godly and warn the ungodly.

Prophets were not exclusively interested in the future. The majority of their sermons address the past and the present. Prophets were more concerned with the past and present failures of the nation in their relationships to God and

humanity, and thus very little revelation is given concerning the future. They emphasized lack of morality in society, which resulted in problems for the nation. Prophets confronted the people's disobedience to God's Word. They continually exhorted the people to have internal righteousness based upon genuine commitments as opposed to an external adherence to legal writings (cf. Mic 6:8).

Micah 6:8 – He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Prophets did proclaim a doom and gloom message, reminding the nation of the consequences for their sin yet also declared salvation by giving the people opportunity to change their lifestyle. Deuteronomy 28—30 is fundamental to understanding the prophets. The Mosaic covenant of Deuteronomy is consistent with the structure of suzerain-vassal treaty formats that were popular in the ancient Near East between a lord (king) and his vassals (servants). The purpose of the treaty was to emphasize the goodness and kindness of the lord to his vassal with a view to cause the latter to accept responsibilities and obligations gladly.

James 1:27 – Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Micah was concerned with personal and social virtue, which is a relevant issue today. The theme of Micah is true religion (cf. Jas 1:27), which means not conforming to external rituals; rather, authentic faith is the practice of godliness in personal and social life. The thesis of the book of Micah is the consequences for not heeding God's Word, and the wonderful blessings to a faithful people.

The timeless value of Micah is to remind one that the test of authority is its motive. Leadership is corrupt and destructive when leaders are given to self-aggrandizement, self-glory, and self-service. A leader's true strength is in his or her recognition of God's supremacy.

THE DIVINE TESTIMONY

(*Micah 1:1-16*) The prophet Micah's name is a shortened form of the Hebrew name “Michael,” which means, “Who is like Yahweh?” Micah's name is the confession, “Who is like unto the LORD!” Micah's name was appropriate because he helped the people understand whom God is like. Micah prophesied during the reign of several kings (Mic 1:1) and was a younger contemporary of Hosea, Amos, and Isaiah. The prophet was genuinely sensitive to the social issues of his time, especially as they affected the small towns and villages of his homeland.



Capitol Commission Bible Study
Tuesday (3rd of March) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP
Member's Bible Fellowship
Wednesday (4th of March) @ 7:15am – 8:00am, 107 CAP
(ministry sponsorship by Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols)



Enhancing Trust

Micah summoned all people of the world to listen to the word of the Lord. He advised those addressed to hear, keep, and do the words (v. 2). **Micah indicated that God has a right to be heard.** He is convinced that everyone who comes in contact with this word ought to listen for their own benefit.

The sermon begins dramatically, with God descending from his heavenly dwelling. God is so majestic that even “the high places” cannot stand before Him (v. 3). The high places were sites of altars dedicated to idols, in addition to being the mountains that will “melt” at his presence (v. 4). The fact that God could affect the physical creation so drastically is good reason why people need to reverence Him.

The reason for the Lord’s intervention was due to sin and rebellion against Him (v. 5). Sin began in the capitals of Samaria (the capital for the ten northern tribes) and Jerusalem (the southern kingdom) and spread like a contagious disease. The capital cities had become leaders in sinfulness as opposed to godliness.

Samaria stood atop a mountain, yet God promised to make it “a heap of ruins,” which was fulfilled with the Assyrian overthrow of Samaria in 722 BC. Even today, the foundations of Samaria’s buildings are laid “bare” (v. 6). God “smashed” Samaria’s idols, which proved them unable to defend themselves and incapable to help others (v. 7). Everyone who serves God in their own estimation and thinks He should be pleased (even though the Bible is read for self-justification, God’s image is self-imagined, and decisions for the day are self-oriented) must answer, “Who is like God?”

The appropriate response to God’s testimony is to “lament and wail” as the prophet did (vv. 8-9). **Unlike a “fire and brimstone” preacher, Micah’s words to the nation were based on love and thus he wept for his listeners.** A clever lament follows which describes the invasion of the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrian army. Various cities of Israel and Judah were addressed as the Assyrians advanced (vv. 10-16). Destruction, humiliation, and sorrow are the consequences of disobeying God.

THE DIVINE REMEDY

(*Micah 2:1-13*) Micah already denounced the sins of idolatry and rebellion (1:5-7); now he confronted social sins (2:1-5). The reason for the national crisis and future collapse of the nation was not Assyrian imperialism or the mere unfortunate chances of fate; it was disobedience to God. Micah addressed the corrupt practices of wealthy landowners who seized other people’s land and property. They would state awake at night plotting how to defraud the poor and then

“when morning comes, they do it” (v. 1). Sinful thoughts always lead to sinful actions!

... GOD WOULD BLESS “THE ONE WALKING UPRIGHTLY”...

The people did not want Micah to prophesy unpleasant things against them (v. 6). The false prophets asked, *‘Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these His doings?’* (v. 7b). They assumed God’s unconditional support (v. 6b). Even today, there are those who only proclaim God’s love and never his judgment. **A false notion of God’s character will always result in a counterfeit view of his actions.** Whoever speaks on God’s behalf will always proclaim sin and grace, in addition to judgment and salvation.

Micah affirmed that God would bless “the one walking uprightly” (v. 7c; cf. Deut 28:1-14). Those who reject God become his enemies, and then become adversaries of the poor (Mic 2:8-9), polluting the land (v. 10). Human nature prefers what is pleasant to the ears (v. 11; cf. 2 Tim 4:3), yet such half-truths lead to devastation.

The divine remedy is found in the concluding verses (Mic 2:12-13). God will preserve a remnant and lead them like a shepherd leads his flock. The one leading God’s people is “the breaker” who goes before them (v. 13a). “The breaker” and “the king” (v. 13b) is the same person: Yahweh (God). **Tremendous hope is given to faithful people.** Exhort yourself and others to trust God absolutely, and then have confidence in the Lord to fulfill his promises.

Thank you for the privilege in providing you with the Capitol Commission Bible study. If we can serve you in any manner, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Scripture calls the church to pray for the salvation of our leaders, resulting in them having knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:1-4). As churches are faithful in prayer and proclaiming the gospel of God’s grace, our society and government *will be impacted*. Capitol Commission is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and promoting the mandate to pray for those in the Capitol communities throughout the United States and the world.

Romans 10:14-15 affirms, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent. . . ?” Please notice the reverse progression. If we desire anyone, including our government leaders, to (5) *call* upon the Lord and to seek Him and his Word for life decisions, they must prior to that (4) *believe* in Him, which means they must previously have (3) *heard* the Word of God, which means prior to that someone needs to (2) *preach* to them, which requires that others have first (1) *sent* someone.

Capitol Commission is committed to the second part: *preaching* (proclaiming) the good news of salvation, yet this cannot occur without someone doing the first part: *sending*. All funding and prayer for this work comes from people who want the light of the gospel of God’s grace brought into our State Capitol. As you do #1 and we do #2, we can rejoice together as the Lord accomplishes in the Capitol what only He can produce in someone: #3, #4, and #5. **What an exciting co-mission! Please join us in this ministry!**

this week’s Capitol outreach sponsored by:



Bible study copies printed by:



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NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, 10th of March @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP