

International Bible Lessons Commentary

Micah 7:14-20

English Standard Version

International Bible Lessons

Sunday, July 26, 2015

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The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, July 26, 2015**, is from **Micah 7:14-20**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** discusses *Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further* to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. A podcast for this commentary is also available at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Micah 7:14-20

(Micah 7:14) Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

Micah concluded with a prayer and praise to God that affirmed his faith in God. Though God punished Israel and Judah for their sins, Micah prayed that God would continue to care for His people as a good shepherd who owned his flock and not as a hired hand, who would abandon his flock (see John 10:12). Micah foresaw a time when God's people would live away from the good land that could nourish them, either living in exile or surviving away from the good land in Judah and Israel that was occupied by their enemies in the Promised Land. Bashan and Gilead were good lands east of the Jordan River that the Hebrews once occupied—"in the days of old" when they entered the Promised Land with Joshua.

(Micah 7:15) As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvelous things.

Micah continued to pray that God would work wonders in their midst as He did when He worked miracles and led His people like a Shepherd out of Egypt—the house of

slavery. Micah foresaw the time when God's people would be in exile away from the Promised Land; so Micah prayed for God to work miracles and lead them home again.

(Micah 7:16) The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf;

Micah foresaw, hoped, and prayed that the nations that had mocked God's people when Jerusalem fell and they had been carried into exile would be ashamed when God restored them in the Promised Land. Micah prayed that God's mighty works in restoring His people would make their enemies feel so ashamed when God restored them in the Promised Land that they would say nothing; but if something was said, that their enemies would hear nothing.

(Micah 7:17) they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

The snake in the Garden of Eden was Satan after God humiliated him for leading Eve and Adam into sin. Micah prayed that the devil and the enemies of God's people would be humiliated or humbled when God led His people back to their homeland. Micah prayed that those who occupied the Promised Land and their surrounding enemies would leave their fortresses in the fear of the LORD and Israel when they returned from exile so they could completely occupy the Promised Land once again without fighting.

(Micah 7:18) Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

Micah concluded his prayer with praise to our God. When compared to God's creation and all of the idols of Israel's enemies and neighbors, there is no God like the true God. No God but the LORD will pardon iniquity and choose not punish but "pass over" people's transgressions. After Israel and Judah were defeated as God's punishment for their sins, only a remnant (a small number or size) of God's people remained. Micah praised the LORD for not staying angry with sinners forever, but forgiving them for their sins. God takes delight in forgiving people, and He seeks sinners to save them (see Luke 15 for Jesus' parables on the lost sheep, the lost silver coin, and the lost sons which show God's delight in saving sinners).

(Micah 7:19) He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Compassion is active love shown by someone in a place of power or in a situation to help someone else in need. Compassion is often shown to the undeserving; such as, the rebellious houses of Judah and Israel. Though God had to punish the unrepentant rebels

among His people, God's love would move Him to disregard as nothing ("tread under foot") the rebellious acts of His people and cast all their sins far away from Him and themselves so they could live holy before God in faith, love, and thankful obedience.

(Micah 7:20) You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

The Lord Jesus Christ would be a descendant of Abraham and Jacob, and the LORD would demonstrate His faithfulness and loyalty to Abraham and Jacob by keeping His promises to them that one of their descendants would bless the nations. God saved a remnant and returned to them to the Promised Land as He looked forward to sending Jesus, His only begotten Son, Who by His sacrificial death on the cross would make possible God's loving, just, and merciful promise of pardoning iniquity and casting our sins into the depths of the sea never to be remembered again.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What seems to be most important about "the days of old" that Micah mentions?
2. What would make the nations ashamed of their might?
3. Why would God's people not need to be afraid when they returned from exile to the Promised Land?
4. In what ways does Micah say God is unlike all other gods?
5. What are the important character traits or qualities of God that Micah lists in Micah 7:18-20?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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