

## **Who is Like You - Micah 7:18-20**

### **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

#### **Notes from the Sermon**

"Who is a God like you?" We come to the end of our journey through the prophet Micah and his prophetic words to the people in 7<sup>th</sup> Century BC Israel. Hopefully you have found that this inspired book speaks to us in our day just as much as it did for those in his context. Some of the issues and idols are different, but at the core, the problems are much the same, especially among the people of God. What we see in this and the other prophetic books. If God does not act in judgment the people will continue to drift away from Him and into all kinds of horrible, oppressive, wicked, and unjust activities. They will run the car off the cliff to their own destruction. On the other hand, God acting in judgment will also result in awful consequences, in their case the nations of Assyria and Babylon conquering God's people resulting in their own oppression as a nation. Go left and things are horrible, go right and they are worse. So, do we lose all hope of anything good?

Micah ends his book with a reflection on one of the key passages in the whole of the Bible, a look back to Exodus 34. In this text God has acted as deliverer of Israel, rescuing them from slavery in Egypt, parting the Red Sea, and then bringing them to His mountain where He has poured His love and grace into their lives. Their immediate response was to build a golden idol in the shape of a calf, bow down and worship it, and break all of the Commandments. As their representative, Moses comes up the mountain to meet with God. It is here that God gives the clearest and most beautiful representation of Himself.

#### *Exodus 34:6-9*

*[6] The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, [7] keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." [8] And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. [9] And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance." (ESV)*

So Micah ends his book reflecting on the character of Jehovah God, reminding himself that this is the source of hope is in God alone, His character and promises. Micah's hope is in his theology, His study and understanding of God as revealed in Scripture. As a prophet God has given him a glimpse into their future and things were bleak. But Micah knows Jehovah. He knows that God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. In fact, Micah knows that as God has made Himself known steadfast love and faithfulness are the most used descriptions of the True and Living God. He is a judge, but this Judge will act to reveal His love and faithfulness. God can't be done with His people, He made promises to Abraham and Jacob about them. He will accomplish His purpose in and through them. Therefore, He will forgive their sin and pursue them in love. Rather than abandoning hope, Micah helps us by centering his hope in the only place where that hope will be fulfilled, in the character of the Only True God.

Theology matters. To know God we must understand Him rightly. He has revealed Himself in creation, the Scriptures, and most importantly, in sending Jesus into the World. Furthermore, the God who revealed His character in Exodus 34 put His character on full display in the person and work of Jesus and the incarnation. How could God ever show His love and offer forgiveness to people entrenched in rebellion and transgression? How could God ever authentically forgive without violating His own holiness? The story of Jesus puts

God's perfect holy character on display, as God's justice and love kiss on the cross of Jesus. Knowing what God revealed to Micah could have led to despair, instead, Micah remembers the glory of His God and the promises of forgiveness and redemption. He reminds himself that God delights in loving us. Rather than despair, this leads to praise and trust in God.

During the Christmas season we are actually surrounded by glorious theology about our God. You will even hear songs declaring the great truths of God's character, promises, and redemptive acts while walking around stores Christmas shopping, as these truths are declared in songs of the season. God has made Himself known, and the more we lean in to this knowledge, the more we grow in our theological understanding while giving ourselves over to Him, the more we will trust in His character and promises. And the more God's people will fill with hope and live for His glory.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Judges 7	Judges 8	Judges 9	Judges 10	Judges 11	Judges 12	Judges 13

Reading from this past week: Micah 7:18-20

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ruth 1

### **Family Worship**

Song - *Oh Give Thanks to the Lord*

<https://youtu.be/DeZs4tb0Mrl?si=-X0NF-AWCfjldj38>

#### Gospel Project

Unit: The Death & Resurrection of Jesus

Story: Jesus is our perfect King

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect King?

Answer: Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of Kings.

Scripture: Colossians 1

#### New City Catechism

Question #48: What is the church?

Answer: A community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together.

Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:13

#### Scripture

Micah 7:18-20

- This whole book has focused on God's judgment on Israel for their idolatry. What does Micah's ending show us about true and lasting hope in the world?
- How should good theology lead to lives of praise, trust, and obedience?
- God is both loving and just. What problem does this create for you and me? Why is Jesus the only possible solution to this dilemma?

#### Prayer

\*Ask God to help you grow in your theology and that true theology would lead to worship.

\*Pray for our Genesis Kids Christmas event next weekend.

\*The first candle of the Advent wreath is called the Candle of Prophecy and Hope. It reminds us of how God spoke to His people through the prophets, offering them the hope of a Savior. It also reminds us of the faithfulness of God's promises, so that we can live in hope. Give thanks for the