November 30–December 6
Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah
“He Delighteth in Mercy”



Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 2:1-2,9

What does this passage teach us about the consequences of using wealth and power to take advantage of others?

Spencer W. Kimball

“To me that means, woe unto them who will rationalize, who will explain away their errors in these matters, who justify their oppressions. Farm hands, domestic help, and unprotected people are often oppressed, when economic circumstances place them in the position where they must accept what is offered or remain unemployed. And we sometimes justify ourselves in underpaying and even boast about it.” (CR, Oct. 1953)

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 6:12-16

How would the lives of the rich and powerful be affected by their dishonesty, violence, and disobedience to the Lord?

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 6:6-8

What does Micah's description of extravagant sacrifices teach us about our inability to earn salvation through our own efforts?

What matters more to the Lord than the quantity or value of our outward acts of worship?

Dale G. Renlund

“Micah satirically wondered whether even exorbitant offerings might be enough to compensate for sin, saying: 'Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten [thousand] … rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for … the sin of my soul?'

“The answer is no. Good deeds are not sufficient. Salvation is not earned.... Not even the vast sacrifices Micah knew were impossible can redeem the smallest sin. Left to our own devices, the prospect of returning to live in God’s presence is hopeless.

“Without the blessings that come from Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, we can never do enough or be enough by ourselves. The good news, though, is that because of and through Jesus Christ we can become enough.” (CR, Oct. 2020)

Dale G. Renlund

“Micah’s direction on turning our hearts to God and qualifying for salvation contains three interconnected elements....

“To be Christlike, a person does justly.... A just person is civil in words and action and recognizes that differences in outlook or belief do not preclude genuine kindness and friendship. Individuals who do justly 'will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably' (Mosiah 4:13.)

“To be Christlike, a person loves mercy. People who love mercy are not judgmental; they manifest compassion for others, especially for those who are less fortunate; they are gracious, kind, and honorable. These individuals treat everyone with love and understanding...

“To be Christlike, a person chooses God, walks humbly with Him, seeks to please Him, and keeps covenants with Him. Individuals who walk humbly with God remember what Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have done for them.” (CR, Oct. 2020)

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 3:9-12

What does this passage teach us about the consequences of unrighteous leadership and misplaced confidence in the Lord's protection?

John Taylor

"Men generally, although very particular about financial matters, and things pertaining to time; although very careful about the acquisition of wealth and desirous of knowing which is the best way to invest it after they have obtained it; although desirous to obtain honor and fame and wealth; yet in regard to religious matters.... they have a hireling priesthood whom they pay to take care of their souls.... Religion is not a thing, according to the estimation of a great many, that everybody ought to be dabbling with: it belongs to the priests, teachers, etc., who are paid for teaching their dogmas, theories, creeds, and opinions." (JD, 14:250)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:10-13

What does the Lord promise to do for Zion when the nations gather against her seeking to destroy her?

Charles W. Penrose

“I know by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that the Lord has commenced the great work of the latter days spoken of by the prophets. I know it will remain, and will prevail; though all the world rise up against it—as they will do some day, not only this nation, but others—and will say, ‘Let her be defiled.’ But they know not the Lord, neither do they understand the counsels of his will…. Though all nations oppose, this work will roll onward to completion; for the power of God will be in our midst and we shall be able to accomplish with greater ease and facility everything we are directed to do. This kingdom will prevail, and this work will roll on and accomplish everything predicted. … The purposes of God will be developed and his kingdom roll on, while the kingdoms of this world, with all their pomp and splendor, will be brought low.” (JD, 21:45)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:1-2

What do you think is meant by the phrase “the mountain of the house of the Lord”?

What do you think is meant by the phrase “out of Zion shall go forth the law”?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Ever since the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated, we have interpreted that scripture from Isaiah, repeated again in Micah as applying to this sacred house of the Lord. And of this place, since the day of its dedication, an ever-increasing number from across the world have said in effect, ‘Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He might teach us of His ways, that we might walk in His paths.’

“I believe and testify that it is the mission of this Church to stand as an ensign to the nations and a light to the world. We have had placed upon us a great, all-encompassing mandate from which we cannot shrink nor turn aside. We accept that mandate and are determined to fulfill it, and with the help of God we shall do it.” (CR, Oct. 2003)

Harold B. Lee

"I have often wondered what that expression meant, that out of Zion shall go forth the law. Years ago I went with the brethren to the Idaho Falls Temple, and I heard in that inspired prayer of the First Presidency a definition of the meaning of that term "out of Zion shall go forth the law." Note what they said: "We thank thee that thou hast revealed to us that those who gave us our constitutional form of government were men wise in thy sight and that thou didst raise them up for the very purpose of putting forth that sacred document [the Constitution of the United States - D&C 101]..."' (Improvement Era, Oct. 1945)

Harold B. Lee

"With regard to the political turmoil among the nations, we would earnestly pray that if this and other nations would be constrained to live by and adopt governmental systems where civil and political liberties are secure, we could then hopefully look for the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of the prophets Isaiah... 'that out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' When that day comes, the blessings and freedoms of the free world will then be realized." (CR, Oct. 1972)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:3-7

What do these verses teach us about the relationship between the gathering of Israel, the reign of the Lord, and world peace?

Erastus Snow

“What reason have we to expect other than a literal fulfillment of the next part of the same prophecy,… that the Lord will rebuke strong nations afar off, and that the nations will beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruninghooks, that they will live at peace and learn war no more, and the Lord will reign over them, from henceforth, even forever?

“Such a mighty revolution as is here indicated by the Prophet can never be effected upon the earth without the voice of God, without Prophets and Apostles, and the power of the Holy Ghost working mightily among the sons of men.” (JD, 16:200)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 5:8-15

3 Nephi 21:22-25

22) But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23) And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24) And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25) And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 7:18-20

What do these verses teach us about the Lord's desire to show mercy and forgive those who repent?

Marion D. Hanks

“He waits to be gracious! He loves to be merciful! The prophets call him ‘the Father of mercies’ (2 Cor. 1:3). They speak of his ‘abundant mercy’ (1 Pet. 1:3), and declare that ‘whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy’ (Alma 12:34). They declare his ‘wisdom… mercy, and grace. (2 Ne. 9:8). And crowning all of this is the testimony that our Father ‘delighteth in mercy’ (Micah 7:18).

“The specialty of the Father is mercy.

“The specialty of the Savior is mercy.” (CR, Oct 1981)

Next Week:

December 7–13
Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14
“Holiness unto the Lord”

