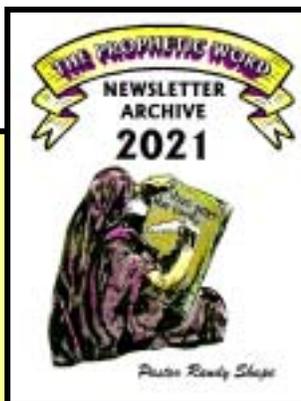


TABLE OF



CONTENTS

1. *January 2021*..... *Pages 3-10*

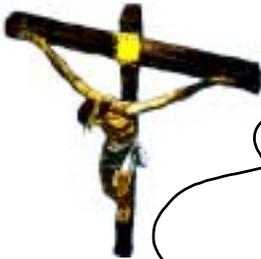
“WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU?”



THE
PROPHET MICAH PROCLAIMS:

**"WHO IS
A GOD LIKE YOU?"**

**PARDONS
OUR
INIQUITY**



**SUBDUES
OUR
INIQUITY**



**"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU,
PARDONING INIQUITY
AND PASSING OVER THE TRANSGRESSION ...
HE DOES NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOREVER,
BECAUSE HE DELIGHTS IN MERCY.
HE WILL AGAIN HAVE COMPASSION ON US,
AND WILL *SUBDU* OUR INIQUITIES.
YOU WILL CAST ALL OUR SINS
INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."
*Micah 7:18-20***

Micah is listed as one of the minor prophets of the Old Testament. This book is "minor" simply due to the fact that it is only seven brief chapters, but contains one of the fullest revelations of God's redeeming power in all of scripture. There are other prophets who foretold of God's willingness toward sinful man to forgive sins. However, there is more to the sin issue than forgiveness. The old hymn we all know well, *Rock of Ages*, speaks of receiving from God a "double cure" from the ravages of sin: "Saved from wrath, and make me pure." Micah foretells how God achieves that double cure. It is by (1) pardoning our iniquities and (2) by subduing our iniquities. For the most part we have only been taught half of God's cure for sin.

In the passages above, Micah prophetically states the whole counsel of God pertaining to the sin issue plaguing man. Our God will not only pardon all iniquity found in His people, but He also has an even greater plan to subdue all iniquity found in the lives of His people. God the Father of all mercies (2 Cor. 1:3), has sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to pardon the iniquity of His people. In this initial divine action we become "saved from wrath." However, the same merciful Father has followed that action by sending His Holy Spirit of power to His redeemed people to subdue their iniquities! This is "the double cure" that will "make us pure."



**"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU,
PARDONING INIQUITY
AND PASSING OVER THE TRANSGRESSION ...
HE DOES NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOREVER,
BECAUSE HE DELIGHTS IN MERCY.**

**HE WILL AGAIN HAVE COMPASSION ON US,
AND WILL *SUBDUE OUR INIQUITIES.*
YOU WILL CAST ALL OUR SINS
INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."**
Micah 7:18-20

The chart below depicts God's plan to deal thoroughly with the sin issue. Digest it carefully. Don't settle for less than God's best. As important as is "the pardoning of our iniquities", it is only half the "good news" contained in the gospel. As clearly portrayed in this diagram, God wants to also "subdue our iniquities." This will require the believer to not only embrace the finished work of Christ on the cross, but also equally embrace the unfinished work of the Holy Spirit to conquer sin in the life of the believer.

~ PARDON ~

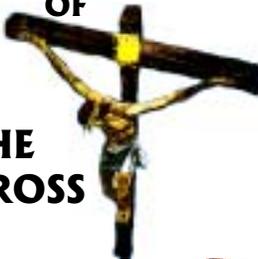


**THE DUAL
OBJECTIVES
OF GOD
AT WORK
IN US**

~ SUBDUE ~



**THE POWER
OF**



**THE
CROSS**

**BY MEANS OF
THE DUAL
DIVINE
PERSONAGES
AT WORK
IN US**

**THE POWER
OF**



**THE
SPIRIT**

Heb 8:12



**BY MEANS OF
THE DUAL
TERMS
OF
THE NEW
COVENANT
AT WORK
IN US**

Heb 8:10-11



***"Deal thoroughly
with the issue of sin in your life,
or sin will
deal thoroughly with you."***
A. W. Tozer

The prophet Micah has stated prophetically what it is that God intends to do about sin in the life of the believer. It will require embracing the ministry of two divine personages of the Godhead, Christ and the Holy Spirit. It will require embracing the dual message of grace and law stated plainly to be the terms of the New Covenant.



**"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU,
PARDONING INIQUITY
AND PASSING OVER THE TRANSGRESSION ...
HE DOES NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOREVER,
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**HE WILL AGAIN HAVE COMPASSION ON US,
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Micah 7:18-20

PARDON OUR INIQUITIES

SUBDUE OUR INIQUITIES

**BY MEANS OF
THE DUAL
DIVINE
PERSONAGES
AT WORK
IN US**

**THE
CROSS**



**THE
SPIRIT**

Micah the prophet prophetically announces God's plan to deal totally with the iniquities of His people. Notice it is "iniquities" that God zeroes in upon and not merely "sins." There is a needful distinction to be made between "iniquity" and "sin" for the scripture states a separation of the two as these examples of scripture reveal:

"I ACKNOWLEDGED MY SIN TO YOU, AND MY INIQUITY I HAVE NOT HIDDEN. "I WILL CONFESS MY TRANSGRESSIONS TO THE LORD,"AND YOU FORGAVE THE INIQUITY OF MY SIN." Ps 32:5

"FOR I WILL DECLARE MY INIQUITY; I WILL BE IN ANGUISH OVER MY SIN." Ps 38:18

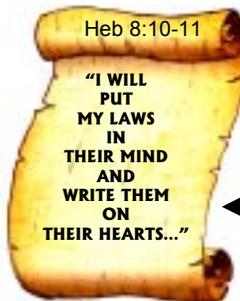
"...YOUR INIQUITY IS TAKEN AWAY, AND YOUR SIN PURGED." Isa 6:7

Without getting sidetracked, let me say that "sin" is the outward evil deed we do, but "iniquity" is the underlying motive/reason why we commit evil deeds. For instance, "hatred" is an outward deed that can be seen, but "envy/jealously" are the underlying cause behind hatred. God deals with both "our iniquities" as well as "our sins"! This is "dealing thoroughly with the issue of sin" as A.W. Tozer admonishes us to do. John the Baptist said we must "lay the axe to the root of the tree" when it comes to dealing with sin (Matt. 3:10). We should not be satisfied with only finding "forgiveness" from God. Know that He wants to "subdue" the root cause of sin in our lives, and this comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is the divine personage of Jesus Christ that forgives our iniquities through the finished work of His cross. However, God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to impart divine power to the believer by means of the fruit of the Spirit to subdue the fleshly power of the sin nature within us. The scripture readily supports this concept. Consider these two statements from two of the prophets, the latter being the prophet Micah that we are considering:

"...NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT," SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS." Zech 4:6

"BUT TRULY I AM FULL OF POWER BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD..." Micah 3:8

Jesus Christ, the Son of God has forgiven our iniquities by the agony of His cross as clearly stated in this clause of the New Covenant:



However, also stated as a clause of the New Covenant is God's plan, administered by the Holy Spirit, author of the Word of God, revealing how God will subdue iniquity in the lives of His people:



Can we merely accept the forgiveness of iniquity provided by Jesus Christ, but then ignore the equally stated goal of the Holy Spirit for those redeemed by Christ?



**"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU,
PARDONING INIQUITY
AND PASSING OVER THE TRANSGRESSION ...
HE DOES NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOREVER,
BECAUSE HE DELIGHTS IN MERCY.**

**HE WILL AGAIN HAVE COMPASSION ON US,
AND WILL SUBDUCE OUR INIQUITIES.
YOU WILL CAST ALL OUR SINS
INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."**

Micah 7:18-20

Before we leave this portion of the testimony of Micah about the magnitude of His God, let us consider the above statement in which Micah states how thoroughly God deals with our sin through His merciful act of pardon. Micah states, **"YOU WILL CAST ALL OUR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."**

In pondering the depth of this simple statement of Micah I am reminded of the sinking of the Titanic into the depths of the sea. It was deep—really deep:

***"The ship, which fell to the seabed
in two parts, can now be found
370 miles off the coast of
Newfoundland
at a depth of roughly
12,600 feet."*** →



← In its day, The Titanic symbolized all the grandeur that man can create. Pictures like this are stunningly impressive.

Not only was the luxury of it stunning to the eye, but also the Titanic was proudly given the reputation that it was "unsinkable." In fact, its creators stated rather boastfully, "Even God could not sink the Titanic." However, we know the end of that story. Scraped down its side by an iceberg, it quickly sank into the depths of the sea, 12,600 feet deep to be exact.

Only through today's amazing photographic technology can we see with our eyes the final dismal destiny of this once glorious creation of man, the Titanic (Named after the mighty Greek God of mythology, "Titan").

It now sits as an ever-rusting ruinous heap on the floor of the sea it once proudly, (but briefly) sailed. With the Titanic in mind, get the depth of Micah's portrayal of how God deals with our sins:



The submerged "Titanic" of our sins:

Never to resurface, never to dominate us again, never to ever shame us again with its sin-laden pride. God, by His great mercy, has cast our once-prideful sins into the depths of the sea—Selah! ("think on that!")

"WITH WHAT SHALL I COME BEFORE THE LORD, AND BOW MYSELF BEFORE THE HIGH GOD? SHALL I COME BEFORE HIM WITH BURNT OFFERINGS, WITH CALVES A YEAR OLD?"



Micah 6:6-7

WILL THE LORD BE PLEASED WITH THOUSANDS OF RAMS, TEN THOUSAND RIVERS OF OIL?

SHALL I GIVE MY FIRSTBORN FOR MY TRANSGRESSION, THE FRUIT OF MY BODY FOR THE SIN OF MY SOUL?"

The prophet Micah now begins to address what is to eventually become the immense **COST** of man's redemption. It is not to be found in the multitude of animal sacrifices (burnt offerings). Micah presents the hyperbole of offering to God "thousands of rams" or "ten thousand rivers of oil" as did Solomon before him.

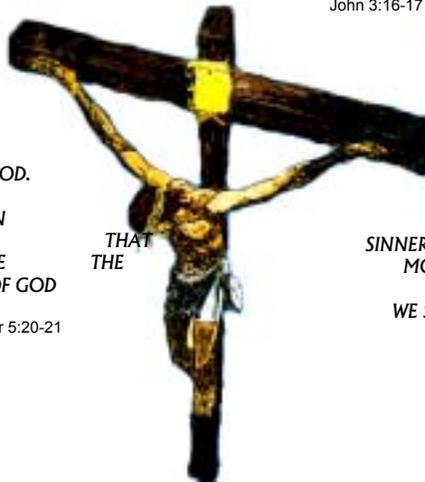
None of these things, states Micah, will be pleasing to God as a satisfactory offering to offset the cost of sin. It will take something greater, and Micah prophetically foretells what that ultimate sacrifice would be:

"SHALL I GIVE MY FIRSTBORN FOR MY TRANSGRESSION, THE FRUIT OF MY BODY FOR THE SIN OF MY SOUL?"

Micah 6:7

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED."

John 3:16-17



"...BE RECONCILED TO GOD. FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, WE MIGHT BECOME RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM."

2 Cor 5:20-21

THAT
THE

"BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. MUCH MORE THEN, HAVING NOW BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM."

Romans 5:8-9

"...GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER WHO HAS QUALIFIED US TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN THE LIGHT. HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS AND CONVEYED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON OF HIS LOVE, IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS."

Col 1:12-14

None of us would thing very long about sacrificing our "firstborn" son or daughter (or even our beloved pet) for the sins of our soul. It would be too great a price to pay. However, this is exactly what God the Father chose to give up, His own beloved Son, as the price necessary to redeem sinful man back to Himself. God the Father, gave up His sinless Son in exchange for saving sinful man. This is incomprehensible love, is it not? No wonder Micah exclaims the amazing character of His God in saying:

"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU?"

Micah 7:18



**"I WILL LOOK TO THE LORD,
I WILL WAIT FOR
THE GOD OF MY SALVATION;
MY GOD WILL HEAR ME.**

**DO NOT REJOICE OVER ME MY ENEMY;
WHEN I FALL, I WILL ARISE;
WHEN I SIT IN DARKNESS
THE LORD WILL BE A LIGHT TO ME.**

**I WILL BEAR THE INDIGNATION OF THE LORD,
BECAUSE I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HIM,
UNTIL HE PLEADS MY CASE AND EXECUTES JUSTICE FOR ME;
HE WILL BRING ME FORTH TO THE LIGHT
AND I WILL SEE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

Micah 7:7-10

In this final chapter of the Book of Micah, the testimony of this prophet of God, switches to a triumphant, confident, boasting in the revealed magnitude of "Who is a God like You?" (Micah 7:18). This is the crowning message of Micah based solely on the immensity of God's commitment to this full plan of salvation set before redeemed man. God is willing to sacrifice His only begotten Son in order to bring sinful man back to Himself. The price of redemption is great, but God is willing to pay it with the shedding of His own Son's Blood. The apostle Peter bears witness with these words:

**"...KNOWING THAT YOU WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS,
LIKE SILVER OR GOLD, FROM YOUR AIMLESS CONDUCT...
BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH
AND WITHOUT SPOT. HE INDEED WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION
OF THE WORLD, BUT WAS MANIFEST IN THESE LAST TIMES FOR YOU WHO
THROUGH HIM BELIEVE IN GOD, WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD AND GAVE
HIM GLORY, SO THAT YOUR FAITH AND HOPE ARE IN GOD."**

1 Peter 1:17-21



Micah's revelation of the magnitude of God's salvation of man continues to unfold with the revelation that God not only intends to "pardon their iniquities" by the death of His own Son, but goes even further with the "subduing of their iniquities" by the supernatural enduing power of the Holy Spirit enabling redeemed man to conquer the sinful temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil. Jesus gave this "promise of the Father" to His disciples as well as to all who would follow:



**"AND BEING ASSEMBLED TOGETHER WITH THEM, HE COMMANDED THEM NOT TO DEPART FROM
JERUSALEM, BUT TO WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER, "WHICH," HE SAID, "YOU HAVE
HEARD FROM ME; FOR JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW...BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE
HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN JERUSALEM, AND
IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH."**

Acts 1:4-8

In light of the revelation of God's total commitment to redeemed man, Micah is moved to state what will be his personal response to so great a salvation offered to man:

**"I WILL LOOK TO THE LORD, I WILL WAIT FOR THE GOD OF MY SALVATION; MY GOD WILL HEAR ME.
DO NOT REJOICE OVER ME MY ENEMY; WHEN I FALL, I WILL ARISE;
WHEN I SIT IN DARKNESS THE LORD WILL BE A LIGHT TO ME.
I WILL BEAR THE INDIGNATION OF THE LORD, BECAUSE I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HIM,
UNTIL HE PLEADS MY CASE AND EXECUTES JUSTICE FOR ME;
HE WILL BRING ME FORTH TO THE LIGHT AND I WILL SEE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

Micah 7:7-10

Micah states a position of "I can't lose!" His God will empower Him not to Sin, but is willing to forgive him if he does sin. Jesus Christ and the cleansing power of His Blood is always available! If Micah falls, he will arise. When he "sits in darkness" then "the Lord will be a light to him." Even though he has sinned against his God, he has the promise that God will "plead his case" and "execute justice for him." God promises to "bring him forth to the light" so that he can "see His righteousness."

Therefore, Micah warns all his demonic oppressors not to rejoice over the fact that he has fallen into a dark place. Micah states he will come out of any and all present darkness by means of the Lord becoming a light to him shining into his present darkness!



**"FOR ALL PEOPLE
WALK EACH
IN THE NAME
OF HIS GOD,**



**BUT WE WILL WALK
IN THE NAME OF
THE LORD OUR GOD,
FOREVER AND EVER."**

Micah 4:5



How people "walk" (their lifestyle) reveals the name of who really is their God. The apostle Paul spoke negatively about a people with a worldly reputation:

**"...WHOSE GOD IS THEIR BELLY,
AND WHOSE GLORY IS IN THEIR SHAME --
WHO SET THEIR MIND
ON EARTHLY THINGS."** Phil. 3:9

In another epistle he spoke of a people whose lifestyle was marked by greedy covetousness, the danger of which Paul noted:

**"...AND COVETOUSNESS,
WHICH IS IDOLATRY."** Col.3:5-6

What then is "the name" of their "god"? It is the love of money. In fact, Paul give three categories of "love" that are in stark competition with loving God Himself:

**"...FOR MEN WILL BE
LOVERS OF THEMSELVES,
LOVERS OF MONEY...
LOVERS OF PLEASURE
RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD..."**

2 Tim. 3:4

This is the manner in which those who are of the world walk, but this is not how the people of God are to walk! →

Paul sought to implore the people of God to have a different walk while living on the same demonically controlled world as the unbeliever:

**"I, THEREFORE,
THE PRISONER OF THE LORD,
BESEECH YOU TO WALK WORTHY
OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH
YOU WERE CALLED..."**

Eph 4:1-2

**"...THAT YOU MAY WALK
WORTHY OF THE LORD,
FULLY PLEASING HIM,
BEING FRUITFUL IN
EVERY GOOD WORK
AND INCREASING
IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD..."**

Col 1:10-11



**"THIS I SAY,
THEREFORE,
AND TESTIFY IN THE LORD,
THAT YOU SHOULD NO LONGER WALK
AS THE REST OF THE GENTILES WALK,
IN THE FUTILITY OF THEIR MIND,
HAVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING DARKENED,
BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD..."**

Eph. 4:17

**"HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD;
AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU
BUT TO DO JUSTLY, TO LOVE MERCY,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?"**

Micah 6:8

In closing, let us consider the above exhortation from the prophet Micah. Truly, through this prophet of God we have seen the magnitude of the name of "the Lord our God" (Micah 4:5). We too, like Micah should in awe be proclaiming, "Who is a God like You?" (Micah 7:18). We have been shown the magnitude of God's plan of salvation to "pardon our iniquities" through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as well as the "subduing our iniquities" by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

Truly, "He has shown you, o man, what is good" (Micah 6:8). We can firmly say with Micah that "God is good!" So then, dear saint of God, partaker of so great a salvation, "what does the Lord require of you" in response? Micah tells us: "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

The definition of grace is usually presented as "Divine influence on the heart." However, this is only half of the meaning of "grace." Look it up in a concordance and you will find it also means "...and the outworking in the life." If we have received so great a salvation as Micah depicts then it should not only "influence our hearts" but should generate a response that "is outworked in the life." That means it should cause us to "have a walk worthy of the calling with which we were called."

Pastor Randy Shupe

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