

Micah 7:1-10, 18-20

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Have you ever thought about how often we wait? Waiting in traffic. Waiting for results from the doctor's office. Waiting in line. Waiting for your child to be born. Waiting for an answered prayer. The list can go on and on of things we have to wait for. We have all done our fair share of waiting, and most times it is no easy task. Many times, waiting can come with a huge sense of uncertainty, anxiety, or anticipation. A sense of hopelessness may start to creep in. You might begin to feel that what you are waiting for is never going to come or never happen.

In Micah chapter 7, we see that Micah is waiting on God to fulfill His promise - the promise to save His people from sin. During this time, the people of Israel seem far from God. Micah 7:2 describes the state of Israel in which, "the godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind." In verses 5 and 6, we see that there is no one to be trusted among neighbors, friends, or family.

The people of Israel have turned away from God and are living in sin. Micah's surroundings make waiting on God's promise to be a difficult task which seems hopeless. In other words, it would be very easy for uncertainty and doubt to begin to sink in. However, despite what seems to be a hopeless time for the people of Israel, Micah still finds his hope in the Lord. With full confidence Micah claims, "I will continue to look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (verse 7). No matter the state of their sin, Micah still remains faithful and trusts in who God is - the God of his Salvation, the God who will deliver Israel from their sin.

How does Micah remain hopeful and faithful while waiting during what seems to be a dark, grim circumstance? In verses 18 - 20, Micah is reminded of who God is. He is the God who forgives and casts out sin, has compassion, shows faithfulness, and keeps His promises. In a time of waiting, Micah recounts the steadfast love of God. Micah knows and believes in the God who saves. During our time of waiting and anticipation, when we begin to feel discouraged, on edge, and hopelessness starts to sink in, we must remember that our comfort and hope is found in the unchanging character and unwavering love of God. Countless times throughout scripture, God makes a promise, and without fail, countless times He fulfills those promises. The promise that Micah was anticipating, while he never saw it fulfilled on earth, God kept by sending Jesus to deliver people from their sin.

With the anticipation of waiting, we must remember God is sovereignly orchestrating all things for His purpose and for our good. God is not idle; He is working in the waiting. During this time of waiting, the Lord is still working in our lives, still sanctifying us, still calling us to remain faithful as Micah did. Charles Spurgeon said, "If the Lord Jehovah makes us wait, let us do so with our whole hearts; for blessed are all they that wait for Him. He is worth waiting for. The waiting itself is beneficial to us: it tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission, and endears the blessing when it comes."

In our time of waiting, may we remain steadfast, faithful, and have hope in the God of our salvation.