

Micah 7:1-10, 18-20

Emily Farmer

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.

Zechariah 6:9-14

Max Brewer

I remember as a young boy my greatest anticipation, the thing I looked forward to the most, was our yearly trip to Iowa to hunt pheasants. My fondest memories are from those hunting trips, especially the conversations my dad and I had along with talk about what the future might hold for me.

The Jews had just gotten good news that they could return to their homeland that had been decimated by the Babylonians and rebuild their Temple along with instituting Temple worship and sacrifices with the High Priest. Times of anticipation were exciting as they made plans to rebuild and execute this plan.

Zechariah gave them a glimpse of the coming Priest that would sit and rule on the throne forever and institute counsel and peace. They were told to make a crown out of silver and gold and place it on the head of Joshua the High Priest and from there it would be a reminder and anticipation of the one who would come one day to fulfill that role forever. His name would be Branch which literally means “sprout” and would later be fulfilled by Jesus Christ as that man in Isaiah 11:1-5. He would have many titles from King of Kings and Lord of Lords to Savior, the Prince of Peace. He would be the mediator between God and man the faithful High Priest that interceded on our behalf and lastly the promised and anticipated savior to Israel and all who would believe.

“The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” Psalm 110:4

“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

***‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you’;***

as he says also in another place,

***‘You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.’***

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 5:5-10