

Kings and Prophets 15-05-01b

Let's pick up our study and we're going to pick up our pace a little bit, but it's it's that is the memorable part Well, we covered in the first session That is the memorable part of Micah if you can remember that part of Micah you can remember the book because that's it in a nutshell is Don't put your confidence in things that cannot satisfy that don't last and that will lead to Judgment because we are the people of God and we have been called to a completely different life And there's no more Fitting conclusion to that than what you find in chapter 1 verse 16 which says Make yourself bald and cut off your hair Because of your precious children enlarge your boldness like an eagle for they shall go from you into captivity People say oh, it's for the children. Let's clean up the planet for the children Let's solve global warning for the children. Let's you know, cure cancer for the everything is for the children It's all about the children.

It you know, anyway time you want to get money for a thing we'll take a picture of a kid and stick it on the front and that's the And we have a natural proclivity toward Children despite the fact that we've raised them and we know what they're really like They they're just a built-in Draw for for contribution and so on but notice here. Do you remember our memory verse? They that wait upon the Lord say it with me. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

Stop right there They that wait upon the Lord renew their strength and they will mount up with wings like eagles Are You can cut off your hair and make yourself bald like an eagle Which this is the buzzard actually in in Israel. They had a buzzard that was just like you think of a buzzard. It's got Very few feathers around its neck and face.

It was a really sort of disgustingly ugly bird Not the noble, you know American flag-topping eagle not the bald eagle we think of that bald eagle was a buzzard type of carrion bird and It's a whole different idea. You can either mount up with wings like the soaring eagle that Circles in the heavens and is closest to God one of the faces of the cherubim right or you can be like an eagle in a completely different sense and Make yourself bald and shear yourself, which was a Canaanite pagan Amorite practice forbidden in the law of Moses and God says if you're gonna break every other part of the law, you might as well make yourself bald and just finish it off Do what the nation's do, you know disfigure yourself Now you do everything else they do this by the way, it's thought to have been the for those of you that are Ornithologically inclined this was the perc not Paris vulture And and it's kind of like coffee perc not PE RC and OT Perc not Paris PER us perc not Paris vulture. That's the indigenous Eagle it's bald in the front of the head and neck there's also the fulvus or griffin vulture Griffins are the most familiar to us perhaps but the children Of course are the future and you're going to see your future taken off into captivity And It looks ahead to the deportations that will eventually take place in the days of Daniel and Hananiah and Michelle and Azariah and Ezekiel and and those that were taken away Sennacherib Even though Jerusalem was not taken Sennacherib historic account says that he took captive over 200,000 Judahites in his days of invasion now, that's 200 LF's however, many

people that actually is but 200 large groups of Deported and captives that were enslaved and that's that's in 701.

That's that's when Jerusalem did not fall talk about a breath of warning discipline and a harbinger of things to come 200 LF's of Judahite citizens taken captive by Sennacherib in his invasion Well, the reason for this judgment is expanded upon in Micah chapter 2 we saw this it is Materialism it is greed it is houses and fields Oppressing a man and taking this is getting rich at the expense of the poor Instead of being sensitive to the to the poor one of the marks of Christian charity has always been looking out for the poor Salvation Army John 3 16 missions so many of the ministries of food and clothing and shelter have been run by motivated by Established by maintained by Believers who do it because they recognize that this is love that we look out not only for our own interests But also for the interests of others and these are worthy missions. They deserve to be supported And and to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus You don't typically get that from your Organizations that are built around other philosophies Then we saw in chapter 3 that there is a failure of leadership. There is a failure of communication.

What is the message and Sadly today we are guilty in this country of a false Christian message Now I will get in permanent trouble for what I am about to say But I will say it anyway because it is the message of the Word of God Evangelicalism We are labeled we are classified as evangelical Christians. What does that mean? We believe that our purpose in life and our reason for existence is to win the lost God bless all Evangelistic efforts God bless the spread of the gospel missionary work and All of us are the fruit of somebody sharing the gospel praise God for that but that's not our reason for being and to define ourselves as evangelical is no different than defining ourselves as the people of prayer or defining ourselves as people of the covenant or defining ourselves as people of the Reformation or Defining ourselves for any other one aspect of Christianity to the exclusion and diminishment of all others We could be pedo Baptists and and be foot washers we could be Hardshell Baptists and and decide that it's all about sovereignty My great-granddad was a hardshell primitive Baptist and he was just as wrong as he could be bless his heart. He labored Teaching and preaching the Word of God for his whole life.

He was itinerant He traveled all over the country and I think he did a lot of good work but to the extent that he got into the and and from what I have been able to determine I think he Really was kind of reticent on that side. I think he spent a lot more time preaching everything else There have been others that did that I think you have s Lewis Johnson here in Dallas that really did a great job of teaching so much else of the Word of God and and gave kind of a light touch to the constant banging of the drum for Sovereignty and and Decrees and so on Lewis Johnson did a great job teaching vast portions of the Word of God and if you go through some of his book series It's wonderful stuff and have been many other teachers that despite their Calvinism or despite their reformed theology have done great work in the the field of preaching and teaching But you can't define yourself by any one thing to get out of balance is to miss the message of balance in the Word of God and Evangelicalism has been a death knell because we

we get somebody saved and then we turn them loose and say go evangelize Especially if they're a celebrity or they have a name that's recognized and they they haven't learned a we're sending babies out to fight Spiritual warfare and it's just nuts This is what Nazi Germany did in the closing days of the war when they started running out of guys They were sending nine ten and eleven year olds out in in uniform to try to fire rifles and and defend the Nazi Agenda and Hitler's you know blighted Misbegotten dreams of conquest they sent their children out It was just nuts well This is the condemnation in chapter 2 is Disregarding genuine prophecy and accepting in its place false proclamation Feel good messages messages that support Pursuing vain beauty messages that support the dust messages that support marching forth messages that support the Idea of neighborliness and oh just it's all you know, it takes a village let's just all band together and together we can do great things and it's brotherly love and Acceptance and diversity and and all of this all of those things that we saw in chapter 1 they had prophets that would preach it and proclaim it and and Present it as though it was the Word of God and Micah says it's false And anytime a genuine prophet of God stands up They say you're prattling cease that you've got a bad message. You've got a message of hate.

We don't want hate we want love Jesus was all about love And they seem to have lost the pages out of their Gospels where Jesus says woe to you scribes Pharisees and hypocrites Because you wipe the outside of the dish and inside it's corrupt. You're a whitewashed tombstone you're Majoring in minor things and you've left off the the primary elements and teachings of the law That's chapter 2 chapter 3 it's leadership. It's a failure in leadership the wicked rulers wicked prophets And he says in verse 8 I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord Justice and might to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin If you go to Bible class for any length of time and don't come away with an awareness of something that needs fixing then find a better teacher of the Word of God because the Word of God is full of instead of Doctrine reproof correction and instruction in righteousness The doctrine and instruction in righteousness are on the outside the reproof and correction are in the middle That's where the important stuff is in a chiasm Reproof and correction.

We are inherently flawed. We tend Left to ourselves. We're like a car that his front end is out of alignment If you don't constantly pull on that steering wheel, you're going to veer off the road We've got a bad car Our suspension is shot and we need constant attention at the wheel to stay focused and and stay on the straight and narrow and Teachers that Celebrate perversity and celebrate immorality and tolerate those things in the church and are so Inclusive that it becomes a badge of honor to call evil good and to call good evil That's what is condemned in in these chapters chapter 2 and chapter 3 then you get to chapter 4 and we we have some relief it reminds me of where we are historically in Kings and Chronicles with the history of this nation and God's unrelenting call to repentance and his Necessary judgment on the people and he finally says as in Isaiah.

Let's just cease The strife and the judgment I'm going to give you rest But I'm going to give you time to to recover and to think and I'm going to call you in the calm In in this in the eye of the hurricane if you will to your covenant obligation to your God to your heritage to all of the

productive spiritual things that define you as a nation and The other side of the hurricane doesn't ever have to hit if you will turn and repent that storm will disappear turn ye at my reproof and In that same way in this after these first three chapters of Micah explaining What is going to happen and why it is going to happen? There is this respite. There is this look to the future and a reminder of what God has promised It shall come to pass in the latter days the mountains of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills and Peoples shall flow to it many nations shall come and say come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the House of the God of Jacob, they will be that light shining on Mount Zion that will draw those who recognize the glory of God and Are positive in response to it all nations are going to come but Jacob got there first God chose Israel first and they will be the nation Who being stewards of the mysteries of God being stewards of the covenants and the promises these the nations will come to them What an honor to be the light bearers to be the torchbearers to be those who? Understand and can communicate and share the blessing of God with the nations. That's their heritage.

That's their opportunity They are their first They are the first remember what Paul says in the early part of Ephesians When he says we who were the first to hope in Christ They have that honor The nations will come to Jerusalem and this of course is a is looking forward to the Millennial Kingdom Out of Zion the law shall go forth the Word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem Verse 3 he shall judge between many peoples and rebuke strong nations afar off They shall bear their swords and to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war anymore Now we say I'm millennial I've heard that if I don't know how many of you have seen my artillery shell Lamp that I got from my grandpa. It's a World War one artifact.

It's a 75 millimeter Shell that's been turned into a lamp and the rotating band the copper band that normally engages the lands and grooves of The weapon and that's what gives it its twist and and causes it to travel straight and true That rotating band on that lamp has been engraved with this passage They shall turn their swords into plowshares their spears into pruning hooks and their 75 millimeter shells into lamps It is the idea and it's stamped into it It's a wonderful thing and I think you know There was so much hope at the end of World War one They were taking the surplus ammunition and turning it into Peaceful things things that could shed light instead of death and destruction and everybody said it's the war to end all wars the Great War the last and only World War and what a forlorn hope that was because God wasn't in it. God is not the one establishing the peace This is what man does after man's warfare man tries to make a peace. How long did that last the you know? they incensed the Germans with the way they treated him after World War one and That's what led laid the sowed the seeds of Hitler and the Third Reich and World War two World War two is a direct outgrowth of the stupidity of the peace of World War one Yet Marines over there in Bellowood and and all of these other things in World War one and and the loss of life the trenches the mustard gas the the water-cooled machine guns and all of those things and I Look at the I look at the toy soldiers that belong to my dad It's an irony Because they're made of lead You know here your

kids are playing with lead soldiers They used to give kids The equipment to make their own soldiers little little shallow molds and things and you had a lead melting thing and you could just make Your own army men paint them up and play with them.

And you know, they're just getting It's like yeah, you know remember the Great War he grew up in the 30s You know, he was a child in the 30s and his his army men are World War one soldiers and some of them have these gas masks on and it's a memory and oh sure glad We won't have to do that anymore as they're playing with lead soldiers And and World War two is just around the corner. This is the human limited feeble grasp of reality that we have and our inability to achieve peace to achieve equity to achieve justice to lay hold of Anything permanent It's so well demonstrated in that time. Well In that day, I will assemble God says verse 6. I will assemble the lame I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted I will make the lame a remnant and the outcast a strong nation the remnant are the the inheritors those that end up being the the few the proud the the the on top the the The elite would be a good word here.

I will make the lame the elite Those that were disadvantaged those that that fell behind those that had to limp and hop and peg along They will be the elite the the remnant means they are going to be the the few that the the oligarchs if you will or the Is it's the opposite of that? The Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on even forever and you Oh tower of the flock The stronghold of the tower of the flock remember when we talked about that in Bethlehem and the shepherds That the angel came and announced the birth of the Lord Jesus the tower of the flock remember Amos Tower of the flock this symbolizes so much The stronghold of the daughter of Zion to you it shall come the former Dominion shall come the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem Why do you cry aloud is there no king in your midst has your counselor perished Pangs have seized you like a woman in labor be in pain and labor to bring forth Oh daughter of Zion like a woman in birth pangs for now You shall go forth from the city. You shall dwell in the field and to Babylon you shall go Interesting that this is the days of the Assyrian incursion and he says you're worried about the wrong thing It's not Assyria. It's Babylon.

That's gonna get you and people say Babylon. Wait a minute. That's They're they're small fry.

They're they're not a threat. What's the matter with you Micah the prophet? You're you're all wet. Can't you see we count the troops look at the strength look at the situation You're not up on current events.

You don't have the latest, you know get up on you You know start watching the hashtags here, buddy You don't know what's really going on when he says your daughter of Jerusalem is gonna go to Babylon well Later history bears out that Micah knew exactly what he was talking about And all these people that were poo-pooing Micah saying you're babbling. You're a babbler be quiet We've got better prophets than you who are in tune and up on current events They should have been listening to Micah. He can tell them Accurately from God what is actually

going to happen and Time will prove Micah right and all of these false prophets wrong.

But of course in the day he looks like a fool Are you kidding? Come on man get with the get with the times you're you're so out of it Babylon That's a pipsqueak far off that Assyria is the threat Assyria is the problem Yeah, right You will go to Babylon There the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies and people are saying what? What and it makes no sense Now also many nations have gathered against you who say let her be defiled and let our eye look upon Zion But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord. No do that nor do they understand his counsel He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor You want a sound investment? You want to know? How to survive when the markets go up and down and finally settle out invest in the Lord Go long on the Lord That's that's Your best bet That's your best investment. You can't go wrong with the Alpha and the Omega the one it is at the beginning and at the end This is like people that are all upset about the temperature of the planet.

You know, this is a short-term spike and dip Take the long view I mean even science can do that get the ice cores from up there and realize that we are we are overdue for an ice age Every fourteen thousand years. There's a massive planetary cooling There's going to be people that are going to turn around and say what were we thinking with the carbon footprint? We should have been trying to preserve the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and trying to maintain some heat on the planet because look at the plunge look at the Vostok ice core data every fourteen thousand years and we are in the you can you can overlay these 14,000 year patterns. They're exactly the same time after time after time and right now we ought to be taking a plunge and Part of what's probably keeping it from going into ice age is good old global warming.

Hooray for us Hooray for industrial gases. Hooray for co2 or you know melt a little ice in the Arctic It's way better than going into you know glaciers And and but man and the wisdom of man. Oh, you know Carbon footprint by 2050 and get China to you know Do this any other and they're gonna be so God knows the end from the beginning and these people that are taking the short-term view It's a Syria.

It's a Syria. It's it. No, it's Babylon.

You need to worry about Judah They do not know the thoughts of the Lord nor do they understand his counsel What a privilege we have that the God of the universe is our father This is family business. We can go to him anytime. We want and say father in heaven You know, I'm getting assailed with the short-term view here.

I would really Be grateful if your Holy Spirit would illuminate your word in my soul Help me to understand a right to make good plans to care for my family to to plan the investment of my time in my future knowing that he will do so because he is there and Those of us that are on good terms with our father know that he's there just as much as we know any other person We're on good terms with It's not something people can enter into you can't bottle it and hand it to somebody and have him take a drink They will only find that out when they come to it for

themselves. You cannot Transfer it you can't Hand it to a friend. You can't hand it to a child.

You can't hand it to an associate Jesus says if you are thirsty come to me, I will give you Living water the one who comes to me out of his belly will flow It doesn't say the one that comes to you and you tell me tell him about me, right? People have to go to the source we in this age Go to God through Christ. No priest. No friend No mentor no discipleship group leader.

No Bible study publisher Let's all do the Beth somebody's study and and that will get me to God, you know God bless the people that are doing a good job of teaching the word, but don't think that they are your your broker They're your mediator There is one mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus And if you want life and peace you go to him you don't come to me And you to go to any other named person on the planet. There is none other name under heaven Whereby we're going to get deliverance and we're going to have a relationship with the Father who will tell us what's coming God said to Abraham Do you think I would hide from Abraham what I'm about to do? Abraham's my friend and he's just the friend of God where we've got Abraham beat six ways to Sunday literally We're we're in a much closer Standing in relationship to God than Abraham was look what God did to and for Abraham and what he explained to Abraham about what? He was going to do Abraham's just the friend of God We are the child of God. What's the matter with us that we don't go to our father and Approach boldly the throne of grace find grace to help in time of need That's where we go God is going to gather the outcast and the afflicted and he's going to make them the elite Why do you cry aloud verse 9 is there no king in your midst as your counselor perished pangs have seized you God will deliver you even in your suffering.

Sometimes he uses adversity to deliver us Many nations have gathered against you, but they do not know the thoughts of the Lord verse 12 circle it They do not know the thoughts of the Lord. This is our refuge He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Abides under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of my God He is my refuge in my fortress not dust town not beauty town not March 4th town Not brotherly love town not any of those towns in the Sheffala God is my refuge.

He is my strength. He is my fortress Arise and thresh Oh daughter of Zion verse 13. I will make your horn iron I will make your hooves bronze.

You shall beat in pieces many people I will consecrate their gain to the Lord and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth This is the words of the daughter of Zion rebuked chastened Restored and renewed now she is dominant as God intended This is Israel in the Millennial Kingdom taking her place as head of the nations You want to talk about women's liberation look at the daughter of Zion that's how to get liberated that's how to get your femininity established in a dominant position Follow the pattern of the daughter of Zion chapter 5 Gather yourself in troops. Oh daughter of troops. He has laid siege against us They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek Who's that? Who got struck? who was wounded and bruised and Stricken they will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek There is going to be a

time of darkness.

There's a time where judgment must be born But it is a purifying fire judgment is a refining fire purifying fire You better from Bethlehem Ephratha though You are little among the thousands of Judah out of you shall come forth to me the one to be ruler in Israel You see the theme here in Micah these are so familiar to us as prophetic of the Lord Jesus and as Messiah and as the Lord Christ But look at it in its context. God says it is the little things that will prevail in human judgment It may be small I Love that gospel song. I've mentioned to you before little as much when God is in it labor not for wealth or fame It is great if God is in it Small things people overlook people give no credit to the quiet believer Doing their work working quietly with their hands living to the extent that it's possible at peace with all men Concentrating on their spiritual growth concentrating on being a light on being God God's love in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as his body on this earth Fulfilling those commands Not trying to change the world with great and mighty things.

It is the little things Gideon and the 300 is what it takes It can be a single judge a single deliverer That's the idea here. It is the lame and the afflicted that God is going to make the elite The last shall be first and the first shall be last those that elevate themselves and make a big splash You won't be able to find them in God's kingdom and the unknown and the unnamed You think about those those men of God those prophets that went did great things and their names not even in Scripture You'll know their names later on You Bethlehem a frather you're a little town among the thousands of Judah yet out of you will come forth to me the one to Be ruler in Israel whose goings forth are from of old from everlasting. He's the Son of God He shall give them up until the time that she who is in labor has given birth Then the remnant of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God And they shall abide for now.

He shall be great to the ends of the earth and this one shall be peace God has made him to be our righteousness and peace and sanctification when the Assyrian comes into our land when he Treads in our palaces we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men What does that mean? Here's the mighty Assyrian and instead of raising our armies and garrisoning our But you're seeing our fortresses and fortifying our buttresses and all the rest of it arming to the teeth and going forth when he comes with all of his Assyrian might we're going to send some shepherds out and eight men of dignified bearing That's what it says They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria and the land of Nimrod at its entrances He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders then the remnant of Jacob Shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the Lord like showers on the grass notice This is the remnant of Jacob not the remnant of Israel Remember when you see Jacob you're thinking wait a minute. This is Yaakov. This is supplanter.

This is heel grabber. This is chiseler Remnant of Jacob. Why does it say he will be in the midst of many peoples? This is a prophecy of the dispersion of the Diaspora of being scattered being taken out of the land.

He's going to be scattered like dew among many nations The dew is everywhere right? It's this is not a pool of living water This is the dew scattered everywhere like showers on the grass that tarry for no man or wait for the sons of men the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many peoples Like a lion among the beasts of the forest like a young lion among flocks of sheep Who if he passes through both treads down and tears in pieces and none can deliver Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries and all your enemies shall be cut off So this is this is ranging across the centuries. This is looking at the Dispersion at the lack of a nation lack of a land that people are scattered and yet they have a prince They have the lion of the tribe of Judah and if they turn to him and They say there's no church-age prophecies in the Old Testament. I beg to differ.

This is one of them What do you do if you're scattered like the dew amongst the nations you need to wake up and? Recognize who the Messiah was he has already come the lion of the tribe of Judah has already appeared And you better place your faith in him become a messianic Jew become a Christian in this age of Scattering in this age of no nation in this age before the time of fulfillment of the promises This is talking about now It's proleptic it is prophetic It looks forward to the time when you're scattered among the Jews are still scattered among the nations most Jews are not in Israel They're in this country and in Europe and elsewhere It is still the time of scattering. They're not going to be truly gathered until God gathers them There is a Harbinger, there's a there is a preparation taking place in Israel, but it is a mistake To be Zionist because of scripture. That's a mistake You can be pro-israel as the nation now for a lot of reasons, but don't do it based on scripture and think that well this is We they're God's people the people living in Israel right now are not God's people.

They are secular Jews. They are Zionist Jews They're struggling to maintain their land, and you know there's a lot of reasons to support them perhaps, but not There's a lot of misguided support for the nation of Israel Thinking that they are something they're not God has not yet gathered them in that land And they are not there because they believe in God or because they believe in Christ Most of your messianic Jews are not in the land Some of them are but most of them are not and most of the Jews in that land are not believers So there's a lot of confusion in the church today God calls them and says look when you're scattered like the dew amongst the nations You better look and find the lion of the tribe and believe in him because he came and you missed it He came into his own and his own received him not but those who do receive him He's giving them the authority to become sons of God to become sons of God Well, I thought Israel was already the sons well Not in this age It's faith in Christ If he passes through treads down and none can deliver it shall be in that day says the Lord that I will cut off your Horses from your midst and destroy your chariots I will cut off the cities of your land throw down all your strongholds cut off Sorceries from your land and you shall have no soothsayers carved images will be cut off sacred pillars are gone from your midst You'll no more worship the work of your hands. I will pluck your wooden image.

He's talking to Judah In that day when I've scattered you like do you're not going to have a land where you have the luxury of engaging in all of these false worship Practices I will execute

vengeance and anger and fury on the nations that have not heard And that brings us to chapter 6 here now what the Lord says Arise and plead your case before the mountains let the hills hear your voice Here Oh mountains the Lord's complaint you strong foundations of the earth the Lord has a complaint has a case Brings a charge against his people you spend all your time worrying about Mundane things worrying about armies and surrounding nations you ought to be paying attention to God's complaint God is in his heaven, and he's got a valid charge And he calls heaven and earth as witness Well, there's a lot in here but There needs to be repentance and in chapter 7 you see this it's labeled sorrow for Israel's sins in your new King James The Prophet says woe was me. I'm like those who gather summer fruit like those who glean vintage grapes There's no cluster to eat of the first ripe fruit that my soul desires the faithful man has perished from the earth There is no one upright among men they all lie in wait for blood every man hunts his brother with a net this goes back to the charge in chapter 2 and chapter 3 Where is the righteous man? We don't have a remnant sufficient to preserve Sodom and Gomorrah They successfully do evil with both hands And he continues that theme you can't trust a friend in verse 5 You can't put your confidence in a companion guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom This is what we're coming to today It's as much as your life is worth to call evil evil to call perversity perversity It is going to become a crime in this land to state biblical truths in a lot of areas Don't rejoice over me my enemy in verse 8 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. I will see his righteousness and there is a remnant that will return Remember Sharia shoes There is a remnant that will return She who is my Enemy will see and shame will cover her who said to me.

Where is the Lord your God? My eyes will see her she will be trampled down like mud in the streets in The day when your walls are to be built in the day the decree goes far and wide in that day shall they come to you? from Assyrian fortified cities from the fortress to the river from sea to sea mountain to mountain the land shall be desolated because of those who dwell in it and For the fruit of their deeds the reason there has to be a regathering is the land has been desolated God is in his heaven Be not deceived he is not mocked When the land of Israel and the land of Judah sowed To the flesh they reap corruption those who sow to the spirit are going to reap life everlasting But God will forgive and the the book closes on a hopeful note look at verses 14 and following shepherd your people Israel With your staff the flock of your heritage who dwell solitary in a woodland in the midst of Carmel let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days of old those wonderful fruitful plains and valleys As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders Miraculously delivered into the land a land flowing with milk and honey The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might that shall put their hand over their mouth their ears shall be deaf They shall lick the dust like a serpent. They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They will be afraid They will fear the Lord our God Fear because of you who is a god like you pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgressions of the remnant of his heritage This is conditioned on Repentance turning change of mind God will pass over who is like God who has the ability to deal with sin? To take it

out of the way 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 depth of the sea you will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham Which you have sworn to our fathers from days of old The covenant promises still hold they will be fulfilled and they will be Consummated in those who turn and those who have their iniquities Removed and their sins forgiven.

It's the same with us turn you at my reproof. Why will you die? Oh house of Israel? But Micah reminds them there is still time there is still opportunity to recognize God for who he is to claim his promises to be the recipient of his grace To redeem the time even though the days are evil to be the remnant Those who end up They may be called lame and they may be called halt and they may be called blind in this age and in this day By those who think they know But those will be the elite they will be the remnant that God will establish Jesus says in the letters to the seven churches Those who persevere those who overcome? They will be greatest they will sit with me on my throne they will rule With me they will partake of the hidden manna. They will have the white stone and the new name they will be pillars in the temple of my God That's our opportunity we just have to remember Who it is? That runs things who knows the end from the beginning and in our personal lives these same truths hold look at the names of those cities look at the failures the deflections and the distractions and let's learn from the mistakes of others and Be creative think up new Mistakes that aren't even in the Bible Instead of repeating these that have been repeated down through the centuries and certainly reflected in Old Testament days when they didn't have the advantages we have of the Spirit and the Word and The example of the Lord Jesus the teaching that we have in our New Testament books so many advantages From those too much is given much is required Father thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for how vividly and clearly You communicate in these Old Testament passages The opportunities and the responsibilities that we have the potentials that we have in the Lord Jesus as we turn to him He is the lion of the tribe of Judah. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world That wonderful passage in Revelation where he is simultaneously the lion and the lamb we pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these things on us help us to Avail ourselves of the opportunity to be rebuked and corrected and Instructed in righteousness so that we can fulfill all of the potentials that are ours in him. We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen