

**Major Messages from the Minor Prophets**  
**Who is Like Our God?**  
**The Book of Micah**

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**Text Introduction:** The Prophets of the Old Testament are divided by scholars into the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets. More precisely, we call Isaiah, along with Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel, Major Prophets. The remaining books of the Old Testament are called Minor Prophets. The terms major and minor refer to the size of these books, not the degree of their importance.<sup>1</sup>

There are 12 Minor Prophets. We are studying through the Minor Prophets. We will devote one Sunday (one message) to each of the 12 Minor Prophets. Our goal is to discover that central core message of the book.

**Text:** Who is a God like You,  
removing iniquity and passing over rebellion  
for the remnant of His inheritance?  
He does not hold on to His anger forever,  
because He delights in faithful love.  
<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us;  
He will vanquish our iniquities.  
You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.  
<sup>20</sup> You will show loyalty to Jacob  
and faithful love to Abraham,  
as You swore to our fathers  
from days long ago.

**Introduction:** A little boy was drawing a picture when his teacher walked behind him. “What are you drawing?” The little boy said, “I am drawing God.” His teacher said, “That’s ridiculous. No one has ever seen God. No one knows what God looks like.” Without missing a beat, the little boy said, “They will when I get through.”

Though it is impossible to describe God, certainly impossible in just a few moments, Micah causes us to contemplate this question, “Who is like our God?”

In fact, this is what Micah’s name means. Like the other prophets, both major and minor, before the time of exile, Micah spoke words of warning against Judah. He served in the same time as Isaiah. Like the other prophets, Micah concluded on a word of hope. Micah’s prophetic message culminates in the courtroom scene of chapter 6. In this dramatic scene, God is the judge and the prosecutor, and Judah is the defendant. God presents the case in such fashion as to indicate all that He has done for Israel/Judah. Instead of responding with obedience, Israel/Judah has responded with unrestrained disobedience.

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<sup>1</sup> Lamentations is considered with these books as a major prophet because it is written by Jeremiah.

As we consider the uniqueness of Micah's message, consider with me several truths that describe the uniqueness of God.

God demonstrates forgiveness over our failures.

The charges against us are enormous, but so is His grace. For Israel, the specific charges are...

- The rejected God's Word. (2:6)
- They hated good and loved evil. (3:2)—Specifically, they tolerated injustice. Consider Micah 7:2-4a.
- They listened to false prophets. (3:5)—Specifically, they listened to the prophets that had the easier message.

As with Israel, it is easy for God to find fault with us. But, our text today reveals what God demonstrates in our lives. And please, notice the reason He forgives—He delights to forgive. He delights to give grace. Think about that. We give grace to others, because we believe it is the right thing to do, but most of time we find it hard to give grace. God wants to give grace.

Here's what we should dwell on. God is not out to get you. He is not out to find your faults. He is out to extend His grace.

God delights in relationship over ritual. (Micah 6:6-8)

What should I bring before the LORD  
when I come to bow before God on high?  
Should I come before Him with burnt offerings,  
with year-old calves?  
<sup>7</sup> Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams  
or with ten thousand streams of oil?  
Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the child of my body for my own sin?  
<sup>8</sup> Mankind, He has told you what is good  
and what it is the LORD requires of you:  
to act justly,  
to love faithfulness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

So, God delights in forgiving. He also delights in relationship.

- Attested to by His coming (Micah 5:2-4)
- Announced by the prophets (Micah 6:6-8)
- Affirmed by Jesus (Matthew 7:2-23)
  - Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do

many miracles in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!'

- Activates obedience—Obedience follows relationship, not rules.

God desires our choosing to fall at His feet over causing us to fall.

We have a choice. Israel could have responded.

Micah 7:17—They will lick the dust like a snake;  
they will come trembling out of their hiding places  
like reptiles slithering on the ground.  
They will tremble in the presence of Yahweh our God;  
they will stand in awe of You.

Perhaps you are more familiar with the New Testament appeal found in Romans 14:11.

As I live, says the Lord,  
every knee will bow to Me,  
and every tongue will give praise to God.

How do you respond?

There is a right way and a wrong way to respond to God's grace. You could say, "I have time." That is the wrong way. You better to say, "My God, who is like you? I stand in awe of you."