

Monday, 6 March 2017 Hosea 10:9-10, 13-15

From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah? When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity. ... You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors, therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children. Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

It is easy to read the Old Testament with a holier than thou attitude, looking at all the times that Israel failed to heed the Word of God. It is easy to respond that we, the Body of Christ, would never be that disobedient. But we need these passages as warnings to us to adhere to the Word of the LORD. Not to pick and choose, it's not a buffet table, but to obey and trust.

Tuesday, 7 March 2017 Jonah 3:4-6

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

One of the amazing points seen in this story is the immediate response of the people of Nineveh to Jonah's message. They heard, they believed, they obeyed. They did not call a meeting of the church planning committee to see which changes were in order and how they should be implemented. Conviction will always be followed by obedience. Salvation will always be followed by transformation.

Wednesday, 8 March 2017 Micah 2:6-8

"Do not preach"—thus they preach— "one should not preach of

such things; disgrace will not overtake us." Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly? But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war.

Do not preach against the murder of a child two months after conception; it's just a clump of cells not a life. Do not preach against cohabitation; they're just checking out compatibility. Do not preach against ..., it's just a peccadillo. Micah declared that such preaching is from the enemy. We forget that we demonstrate our love for the LORD, God, the Almighty and our gratitude to Him for what He has done for us by our simple acts of obedience.

Thursday, 9 March 2017 Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

And he shall be their peace. O what comfort to look forward to; that all will be well and in the LORD, God, the Almighty's order. But even more amazing is that He promises that righteousness, peace and joy to us in the here and now as we repent and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Friday, 10 March 2017 Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

There is **no thing** that I can offer to the LORD, God, the

Almighty. **No thing!** But the **every thing** that He requires is tangible evidence of my obedience. He requires me to be just in all situations, to serve my neighbor with kindness and with love and to demonstrate humility before Him. In short, to be His Ambassador of Reconciliation in every aspect of my life.

Saturday, 11 March 2017 Habakkuk 1:2-5

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

I have to wonder, is Habakkuk giving a prophecy of what is still to come for the church in the West for its disobedience? Will we suffer persecution and oppression? Will our 'precious' freedoms be withdrawn? Will we get a much needed lesson to not trust in things granted by man?

We find it difficult to believe the rapidity with which the morals of the culture have disintegrated in our life times. Will we exclaim that we had not seen anything yet?

Lord's Day, 12 March 2017 Psalm 119:153

Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law. Your death provided access to life in the Kingdom. Your Law defines it, Your Holy Spirit provides the ability to live according to it. I am called to obey out of love and gratitude.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 6-12, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

We thank You, LORD, for the grace, given to us in Christ Jesus. In Him we have been equipped in every way to carry our testimony about Christ; through our speaking, writing and living to those You have given us to serve.

Thank You that we do not lack any spiritual gift as we eagerly await our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. We are convinced that He will keep us strong until the end so that we will be presented to You, blameless and pure on that Day. You, who have called us into fellowship with Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, are faithful.

Praise You, LORD, God the Almighty. Amen.

Creational Theology hint for the week--Looking over the western slopes of the Green Mountains from my chair and catching the first rosy blush, a precursor of green foliage to come.

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