

Micah 7:9-13 “The Day of Vindication”

For the Children: How do you deal with pain? Take some medicine? Go have a lie-down? Do something to distract yourself? Sometimes the whole church feels pain. Sometimes, that pain is because the Lord is teaching us to repent of our sins. How do God’s children then deal with that pain? By remembering that the Lord will take it away when He is ready. He will deal with any people who have added to that pain in a sinful way. And He will build us up and bless us even more than before – especially in the heaven. **Questions:** What can we do that will help us as we wait for the Lord to bring an end to our suffering? Name some of the enemies who seek to cause us pain. What will the Lord do to build us up and bless us?

Introduction:

First Point: Chastisement Due to Sin

- The Day of Training: The Lord trains His people in righteousness. Sometimes that involves chastisement for our sins. It can be hard to know whether the Lord’s discipline is due to a particular sin or simply due to the fact that we are all sinners who need sanctification. See Jn. 10:2 and Heb. 12. In Judah’s case, it was due to their sin.
- Confessing on Their Behalf: Micah confesses sin on behalf of his people (v. 9). He can also acknowledge that he is a sinner, too. None of us can say that it is unfair for us to suffer when calamity falls upon our nation.
- For as Long as it Lasts: Micah is willing to bear the Lord’s indignation for as long as He decides. A long duration of suffering does not entitle us to complain against the Lord’s justice. For we never receive as much as our sin deserves.

Second Point: Chastisement Replaced with Vindication

- The Great Replacement: V. 9 implies that the Lord will bring an end to the chastisement. More than that, it implies that He will replace it with *vindication* = being cleared of charges, proven to be in the right.
- The Downfall of Enemies: That turn-around involves the downfall of the enemies of God’s people – Satan and his human allies, sin and death. They will see what the Lord does for His people and they will be the ones who are covered with shame (v. 10). The feminine reference (“shame will cover *her*...”) possibly refers to the cities of those who oppose e.g., Nineveh and later, Babylon. Nineveh is suggested by the taunts, “Where is the Lord your God?” which is similar to the Assyrian taunt in 2 Chron. 32:8f and Is. 36. Enemies of the faith often conclude that the church has no God to defend her, but vindication means that the Lord proves that He does defend His church. These enemies will be trampled down (v. 10). This will apply to all such enemies throughout the whole earth (v. 13) – a warning of the final judgement.
- The Bringing Out of God’s People: The reverse fate awaits the church. They will be delivered, the opposite of what happens to their enemies. God’s people are brought out of the darkness of invasion, into the light of the Lord Jesus (v. 9). He “pleads our case” after granting us His righteousness. Our vindication is that we are “proven right” in Christ’s righteousness, not our own. See 2 Cor. 11. The uplifting, restoration and renewal of God’s people is seen also in re-building of their walls (v.11) – not only literally, in the case of Jerusalem after Exile, but in the restoration of God’s vineyard, through Christ. This is also demonstrated by the expansion of the church, especially the Gentile inclusion in the NT, as foreshadowed in v. 12.

Conclusion: