

Micah 7:14-17 "Let Them Feed"

For the Children: Imagine a father who didn't let his children eat; or a boss who didn't allow time for his workers to have their lunch. God is our Father and our Shepherd. The Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd and He is our Master. He makes sure that His adopted brothers and servants have enough spiritual food – the life we have from Him and the blessings we receive from His Word. He makes sure that we receive that food even when we are surrounded by people who would stop us from serving Him. He will make sure that we receive this food forever. **Questions:** Why is God described as having a shepherd's staff? What Exodus-like miracles does Micah promise Israel? How does the Lord "feed" us today?

Introduction:

First Point: A Cry to the Shepherd

- 1) The Background: Micah picks up the shepherd-theme that has run through the book. See 2:12 and 5:4-6. This theme springs from Gen. 49:10, which promises a "sceptre" in Judah until the Messianic Peace-Bringer (Shiloh) comes. The "sceptre" not only speaks of royal power, but also a shepherd's staff. See also Ps. 23:1,4. Jn 10 makes it clear that these passages point to the Lord Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- 2) A Plea to the Great Shepherd of Israel: Micah calls on the Lord to shepherd His sheep with His staff – to protect and guide them. This is a prayer of faith that displays trust in the Lord's promise of the coming Messiah.
- 3) From Scrubland to Fertile Field: Micah looks out on a Judah that has been invaded, taking from them access to their fertile fields (v. 14). He is asking the Shepherd to bring them out again to that place of fertility and blessing – "Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead," fertile regions once held by Israel but now taken by hostile nations.
- 4) As in Days of Old: The Lord had done so before, as when He took Israel from bondage to Egypt and brought them up to the Promised Land. He could do it again.

Second Point: A Promise from the Shepherd

- 1) A New Exodus: Not only is the Lord able to return His people to fertile fields, He *promises* to do so. In v. 15 He promises to show them miracles as He did in the days of the Exodus. This refers to more than just a return from Exile. The greatest miracles were done by the Lord Jesus. The greatest spiritual feeding of His people comes from His miracle of His death and resurrection.
- 2) Ongoing Feeding: The result of Christ's work is that His flock are fed throughout their life, in which they are surrounded by enemies; and on into eternity. Micah prayed to God to feed His sheep and the Lord Jesus commanded His apostles, "Feed My sheep!" (Jn. 21:15-17).
- 3) Driving Off Predators with His Staff: The Shepherd also protects His flock by using His staff to drive off predators who would harm His sheep. The Lord will fill the hostile nations with shame and consternation (v. 16). Since they are cursed like the serpent in Gen. 3:14, they, too, will grovel in the dust before the Lord and His Church, on the Last Day. See Phlp. 2:10. Then they will tremble before the Lord (Mic. 7 17).

Conclusion:

