***Responding to the Lord in the Growing Crisis (Micah 7)***

1. David prophesied victory in a global spiritual crisis in the end times
   1. In Psalm 2, David prophesied a victory at a time when world leaders would oppose the leadership of Jesus, causing a global crisis that would reach its pinnacle in the generation of Jesus’ return.
      1. ***The kings’ opposition***: Seeking to remove the influence of the Word from society (2:1-3)
      2. ***The Father’s response***: Exalting Jesus as King and confronting rebellion against Him (2:4-6)
      3. ***Jesus’ response***: Interceding in agreement with the Father’s decrees (2:7-9)
      4. ***David’s exhortation***: To serve God in the fear of God with confidence and affection (2:10-12)
   2. The kings of the earth will rise up in rage to oppose Jesus and His leadership (2:1-2), seeking to remove the influence of His Word from society (2:3). They will see God’s Word as *bonds* enslaving them, hindering human potential, and as *cords* binding them to His ways and truth.

1Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” (Ps. 2:1-3)

* 1. Before Jesus returns, both godliness and sin will reach their greatest heights in history, resulting in a falling away from the faith (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5).
  2. The Father’s response to these kings was to promise revival and judgment (2:4-6). He will magnify Jesus as King (2:6) and distress wicked kings (2:5). Sources of pressure include *Satan’s rage*, *man’s sin*, and *God’s shakings*—He judges rebellion and disciplines His people in compromise.

4He who sits in the heavens shall laugh…5He shall speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure: 6“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” (Ps. 2:4-6)

* 1. God’s people are to be *faithful witnesses* of the truth about God. In His wrath, He will speak to the leaders of society through His people. One primary characteristic of a false prophet is that they prophesy only blessing to people—even those who refuse God’s leadership—without ever speaking of His judgments (Jer. 6:14; 8:11; 14:13-14; 23:16-22; Ezek. 13:9-10, 16; Mic. 3:5-6).
  2. Jesus responds with intercession that agrees with the Father’s decrees (2:7-9). Jesus revealed Himself as the *Great Intercessor* who prays for His leadership to be displayed openly on earth.

7“I will declare the decree: The Lord [Father] has said to Me, ‘You are My Son…8Ask of Me, and I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron.’” (Ps. 2:7-9)

* 1. David exhorted us to serve God in the *fear of God* and with a spirit of *rejoicing that is confident* in His promises of victory as we *“kiss the Son”* by paying homage to Him with affectionate obedience (2:10-12).

10Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12Kiss the Son, lest He be angry. (Ps. 2:10-12)

* 1. *The Psalm 2 crisis requires a Joel 2 response, resulting in an Acts 2 outpouring of the Spirit.*

1. micah’s response to spiritual crisis: a prophetic picture (Mic. 7)
   1. Micah described the spiritual crisis in his day—society was filled with sin and betrayal (7:1-6).

1Woe is me!...2The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men…every man hunts his brother with a net…3the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire; so they scheme together…4Your punishment comes; now shall be their perplexity.5Do not trust in a friend…6For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother…a man’s enemies are the men of his own household. (Mic. 7:1-6)

* + 1. Micah identified the primary leaders who will scheme together to lead society into spiritual darkness—the *princes* (government leaders), *judges* (legal and court systems), and *great men* (leaders in religion, economics, military, education, media, athletics, social icons, etc.).
    2. Jesus identified the end-time spiritual crisis as being fueled by anger against the gospel   
       (Mk. 13:10).

8For nation will rise against nation…there will be earthquakes…9“…You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake…10The gospel must first be preached to all the nations …12Now brother will betray brother to death, and…children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 13And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake… 14When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’…let those who are in Judea flee…”   
(Mk. 13:8-14)

* 1. Response #1 is to look to God, pray and wait on Him to act to openly fulfill His promises (7:7). When teaching on the end times, Jesus’ primary exhortation to His people was to *watch and wait* (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15).

7Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me. (Mic. 7:7)

* 1. Response #2 is to have confidence in God’s faithfulness even in the face of great darkness (7:8-9). Response #3 is to patiently bear the Lord's discipline. Response #4 is to respond in deep repentance.

8Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. 9I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and…He will bring me forth to the light… (Mic. 7:8-9)

* 1. Response #5 is to pray that the Lord intervene in power to fulfill His promises (7:14). The Lord answered Micah's prayer by promising him that He would show Israel great miracles (7:15)—like the very miracles that He did when He delivered them from Egypt (Ex. 7-12; Jn. 14:12; Rev. 16).

14Shepherd Your people with Your staff…15“As in the days when you came out of…Egypt, I will show them wonders.” 16The nations shall see and…shall be afraid of the Lord… (Mic. 7:14-16)

* 1. Response #6 is to worship the Lord for His unique kindness—even in pardoning the us sins of the surviving remnant. Response #7 is to delight in mercy towards others since God delights in mercy.

18Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant? …He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. 19He will have compassion on us and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into…the sea. (Mic. 7:18-19)