

Micah 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Analysis

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old. Micah concludes with triumphant confidence in God's covenant faithfulness. "**Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob**" (תִּתֵּן אֱמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב, titten emet le-Ya'akov)—emet (truth, faithfulness, reliability) describes God's covenant loyalty. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God remains faithful. Second Timothy 2:13 declares: "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." God's character guarantees His promises. The name "Jacob" recalls the patriarch's journey from deceiver to Israel, recipient of covenant promises (Genesis 28:13-15, 35:10-12).

"And the mercy to Abraham" (וְחֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם, chesed le-Avraham)—chesed is covenant love, loyal kindness, steadfast mercy. God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-8) promised land, seed, and blessing to all nations. Paul explains this covenant finds fulfillment in Christ: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Galatians 3:16). Every believer, Jew or Gentile, receives Abraham's blessing through faith in Christ (Galatians 3:7-9, 29).

"Which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old" (אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ, אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִיָּמֵי קֶדֶם, asher-nishba'ta la-avoteinu mi-yemei kedem)—God's oath guarantees performance. Hebrews 6:13-18 explains God swore by Himself (having none greater), making His promise immutable. Ancient promises remain operative;

God never abandons covenant commitments. Romans 11:29 affirms: "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Though Israel stumbled, God's redemptive purposes continue. Micah ends not with judgment but hope—confidence that God will fulfill every covenant promise through Messiah.

Historical Context

Micah prophesied during 750-686 BC when Israel faced existential threats. The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria (722 BC); Judah teetered on collapse. Yet Micah ended his prophecy not with doom but confidence: God keeps covenant promises. This hope sustained Israel through Babylonian exile (586-538 BC) and subsequent centuries under Persian, Greek, and Roman rule. When Christ came, He fulfilled these ancient promises: born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), Ruler of Israel, Savior of the world. The Church now participates in Abrahamic covenant blessings (Ephesians 2:11-22), heirs according to promise (Galatians 3:29). God's faithfulness spans millennia, guaranteeing final restoration when Christ returns to establish His kingdom fully.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to ancient covenant promises (to Jacob and Abraham) assure you of His reliability in keeping promises to you personally?
2. In what ways do you see God performing "truth" (faithfulness) and "mercy" (covenant love) in your life and the Church's history?
3. How does recognizing that you inherit Abrahamic covenant blessings through faith in Christ shape your identity, security, and mission as a believer?

Interlinear Text

תַּתּוּ	אֶמֶת	לְיַעֲקֹב	חַסְדֹּ	לְאַבְרָהָם	אֲשֶׁר
Thou wilt perform	the truth	to Jacob	and the mercy	to Abraham	
H5414	H571	H3290	H2617	H85	H834
נִשְׁבַּעַ עֲתָ	לְאֲבֹתֵינוּ	מִיָּמֵינוּ	קִדְמָ:		
which thou hast sworn	unto our fathers	from the days	of old		
H7650	H1	H3117	H6924		

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