

THE BOOK OF MICAH – AN INTRODUCTION

“Who is a God like You who...will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:18-19

Author: Micah “Who is like YHWH” (7:18) the son of Morsheth (1:1) (740-690BC)

- Micah's hometown was Moresheth-gath, located about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem in Judah (1:1)

Date: Between 735-710_{BC}

- Micah's ministry spanned approximately 20-25 years. This book is a summary of his messages during that time.
- During the reigns of three Judean kings: Jotham (750–732_{BC}), Ahaz (732–715_{BC}), and Hezekiah (715–686_{BC}).

Audience: Micah was primarily a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

- Micah directed his messages to the Southern Kingdom, but often described events in the Northern Kingdom
- Micah is known as the prophet to the poor because he was their only voice in a day of gross injustice

Micah's Contemporaries

- Hosea- N. Kingdom (733-701_{BC}) – Ministered to Israel by exposing idolatry, which was the root of their sin
- Amos- N. Kingdom (767-755_{BC}) – Ministered to Israel by exposing injustice, which was the fruit of their sin
- Isaiah-S. Kingdom (739-681_{BC}) – Ministered within Jerusalem among the court of the kings
- Micah-S. Kingdom (733-701_{BC}) – Ministered outside Jerusalem among common peasants oppressed by the wealthy

Purpose: to warn Judah of the coming judgment of Assyria and Babylon

- Micah warned the people of Judah concerning their injustices and called them to repent or face great judgment.
- Micah also stirred the nation's hope in the Shepherd King who was to come and fulfill God's covenant promises.

Background:

1. God dealt with His people according to the Mosaic Covenant. If they persisted in obedience to His commands, they would know His blessing, but if they persisted in disobedience, they would face judgment (Lev. 26; Deut. 28).
2. Around 730_{BC} both kingdoms were enjoying economic affluence and international peace—but spiritual corruption was abounding. The corruption of the N. Kingdom was recorded by the prophet Amos (2:6-7, 4:6-9; 5:10-12; 8:4-6).
3. The false religion of Ahab brought deep corruption to the nation in just over a century (6:16)
4. Assyria (5:5-6) and Babylon (4:10) are enemies of Israel whom God will often use to discipline Israel for their sins.
5. The nation of Israel was guilty of many sins against God and others. They gave themselves to idolatry (1:7, 5:12-14) and empty religion (6:6-7). The wealthy oppressed the poor by stealing property (2:1-9) and using corrupt business practices (6:10-12). The leadership was corrupted in both spiritual (3:5-11) and civil arenas (3:1-3, 9-10, 7:3).
6. Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah in 701_{BC}. According to his records, he captured 46 of Judah's strong cities, walled forts, and many small villages. He claimed to have taken many Judahites and animals.
7. Rabshakeh, a messenger of Sennacherib, threatened Hezekiah to not trust the Lord for deliverance. (2 Kings 18)
8. Micah's message lead Hezekiah to trust God who delivered Judah from Assyria (2 Kings 19:14-35; Jer. 26:18-19).
9. Hezekiah's repentance led to 125 more years of life in the land before Babylon led Judah to captivity in 586_{BC}.

AN OUTLINE OF MICAH: Hearing of God's Judgment and Salvation

Message 1—Peoples, Hear of Israel's Judgment and Salvation (1:1-2:13)

1:1-2:11—Judgment: The Jealous King Judges Idolatry and Injustice

1:1—Introduction

1:2-16—Judgment on Idolatry

1:2-7—Micah Points out Israel's Idolatry

1:8-16—Micah Mourns over Judah's Idolatry

2:1-11—Judgment on Injustice

2:1-5—Micah Rebukes Oppressive Rulers

2:6-11—Micah Exposes Oppressive Prophets

2:12-13—Salvation: The Shepherd King Restores the Remnant

Message 2—Corrupt Rulers, Hear of God's Righteous King (3:1-5:15)

3:1-12—Judgment on the Unjust Rulers

3:1-4—Unjust Judges

3:5-8—Untrue Prophets

3:9-12—Ungodly Leaders

4:1-5:15—Salvation Promised for the Nation

4:1-5—Salvation in Zion

4:9-5:1—Salvation from Enemies

5:2-13—Salvation by the Purifying Shepherd

Message 3—Judah, Hear of God's Justice and Mercy (6:1-7:20)

6:1-7:6—The Just Judgment of God

6:1-8—Cosmic Courtroom: God Calls Trial

6:9-16—Verdict of Vengeance: God Condemns Judah

7:1-6—The Prophet's Lament: Evil is All-Around Me

7:7-20—The Hopeful Forgiveness of God

The Ancient Near East in Micah's Day (740BC)



JUDEAN TOWNS OF MICAH 1

Verse	Name	Meaning
1:10	Gath	= "tell"
1:10	Beth-le-aphrah	= "house of dust"
1:11	Shaphir	= "beautiful"
1:11	Zaanan*	= "come out"
1:11	Beth-ezel*	= "house of taking away"
1:12	Maroth*	= "bitter"
1:13	Lachish	= "to the steeds"
1:14	Moresheh-gath	= "one who is betrothed"
1:14	Achzib	= "deception"
1:15	Mareshah	= "conqueror"
1:15	Adullam	= symbolic of hostility, i.e. David's exile in 2 Sam 23:13
	* location unknown	

MICAH'S ISRAEL & JUDAH

