

Micah

Micah confronts the leaders of Israel regarding their injustice, and prophecies that one day the Lord himself will rule in perfect justice. Prophecies of the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem.

Author: Micah, who was a contemporary of Isaiah, was mentioned in Jer. 26:18-19.

In Micah – Jesus is the One Who casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness

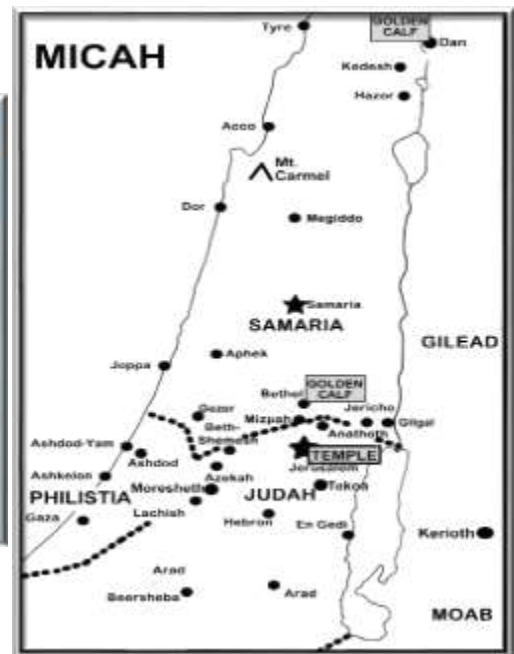
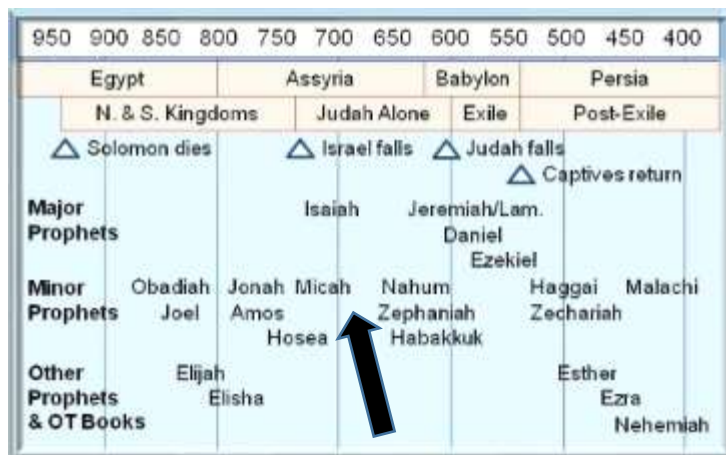
"He has shown you, o mortal, what is good.

Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God."

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TEACHER: 7 CHAPTERS

Micah was a prophet, somewhat overshadowed in historical scope by his contemporary Isaiah. He worked in Judah. His claim to fame is his prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. That fact shows how perfect the canon we hold dear today is. This little book, 7 chapters long, was preserved for the centuries of wars and exiles, and dispersions, to point the way to Jesus being born in Bethlehem over 700 years after he spoke the prophesy and then penned it. I am fascinated by God's care for His word. We see in this book also a prophecy concerning Zion. Zion, and sometimes called Mount Zion, refers to the Mountain fortress David captured from the Jebusites in 1 Chronicles 11. It is also called the city of David. The Bible shows that God Himself will reign on Mount Zion. It is a Holy Place. He prophesies that Zion will be plowed like a field. Micah lived and operated in Moreseth, ½ way between Judah and Philistia. Assyria is gathering muster for war with Israel. Israel wants to partner with Judah and Aram to fight them. Judah refuses, and partners with Assyria. Jonah goes to Nineveh after the fish spits him up and a revival breaks out. Judah becomes a vassal state of Assyria, and soon after Israel falls. Micah ministers from the time just before Jonah to just before Israel falls.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

During the time that Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah, the LORD gave this message to Micah, who was from the town of Moresheth. The LORD revealed to Micah all these things about Samaria and Jerusalem.

² Hear this, all you nations; listen to this, all who live on earth!

The Sovereign LORD will testify against you.

Listen! He speaks from his heavenly temple.

³ The LORD is coming from his holy place;

he will come down and walk on the tops of the mountains.

⁴ Then the mountains will melt under him like wax in a fire;
they will pour down into the valleys like water pouring down a hill.

⁸ I will wail and lament, howling as a jackal, mournful as an ostrich
crying across the desert sands at night. (GNT)



TEACHER:

Verses 5-9 tell us the blame is the city capitals of Israel and Judah. Samaria and Jerusalem. Micah is full of sorrow and walks around barefoot and naked. He says he will howl like a Jackal and wail like an ostrich. He prophesies exile for Judah. The blame he assigns for this is greed in the ruling class. Trivia note, ostriches are mentioned 17 times in scripture. You learned something today.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

How terrible it will be for those who lie awake and plan evil! When morning comes, as soon as they have the chance, they do the evil they planned. ² When they want fields, they seize them; when they want houses, they take them. No one's family or property is safe.

³ And so the LORD says, "I am planning to bring disaster on you, and you will not be able to escape it. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Micah relates a refrain I hear a lot today. He also talks of the mistreatment of veterans and the upper class turning the middle class into the lower class.

STUDENT:

The people preach at me and say, "Don't preach at us. Don't preach about all that. God is not going to disgrace us. ⁷ Do you think the people of Israel are under a curse? Has the LORD lost his patience? Would he really do such things? Doesn't he speak kindly to those who do right?"

⁸ The LORD replies, "You attack my people like enemies. Men return from battle, thinking they are safe at home, but there you are, waiting to steal the coats off their backs. ⁹ You drive the women of my people out of the homes they love, and you have robbed their children of my blessings forever. ¹⁰ Get up and go; there is no safety here anymore. Your sins have doomed this place to destruction. (GNT)

TEACHER:

God shows how after exile purges the evil from God's people, He will bring them home.

STUDENT:

“These people want the kind of prophet who goes around full of lies and deceit and says, ‘I prophesy that wine and liquor will flow for you.’

¹² “But I will gather you together, all you people of Israel that are left. I will bring you together like sheep returning to the fold. Like a pasture full of sheep, your land will once again be filled with many people.”

¹³ God will open the way for them and lead them out of exile. They will break out of the city gates and go free. Their king, the LORD himself, will lead them out. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 3 Micah lays the blame at the top. He blames corrupt rulers.

CH. 3

STUDENT:

Listen, you rulers of Israel! You are supposed to be concerned about justice, ² yet you hate what is good and you love what is evil. You skin my people alive and tear the flesh off their bones. ³ You eat my people up. You strip off their skin, break their bones, and chop them up like meat for the pot. ⁴ The time is coming when you will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer you. He will not listen to your prayers, for you have done evil. (GNT)

TEACHERS:

Next in line..... phony prophets.

STUDENT:

My people are deceived by prophets who promise peace to those who pay them, but threaten war for those who don't. To these prophets the Lord says, ⁶ “Prophets, your day is almost over; the sun is going down on you. Because you mislead my people, you will have no more prophetic visions, and you will not be able to predict anything.” ⁷ Those who predict the future will be disgraced by their failure. They will all be humiliated because God does not answer them. (GNT)

TEACHER:

He then testifies of his own uprightness of heart.

STUDENT:

But as for me, the LORD fills me with his spirit and power, and gives me a sense of justice and the courage to tell the people of Israel what their sins are. ⁹ Listen to me, you rulers of Israel, you that hate justice and turn right into wrong. ¹⁰ You are building God's city, Jerusalem, on a foundation of murder and injustice. ¹¹ The city's rulers govern for bribes, the priests interpret the Law for pay, the prophets give their revelations for money—and they all claim that the LORD is with them.....

And so, because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a pile of ruins, and the Temple hill will become a forest. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Micah prophecies on the last days. The 1000 year millennium. You should know that the 1st 3 verses we are about to read have also been prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah 2:1-3.

CH. 4

STUDENT:

In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
² Many nations will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
³ He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
⁴ Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.
⁵ All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD
our God for ever and ever. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Moving to chapter 5, a wonderful messianic prophesy.

CH. 5

STUDENT:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth. (NIV)



TEACHER:

Before we get to the New Jerusalem, we have some sin to deal with. Back to the devastation of the middle class.

STUDENT:

CH. 6

Listen! The LORD is calling to the city— and to fear your name is wisdom—

“Heed the rod and the One who appointed it

¹⁰ Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house, and the short ephah which is accursed?

¹¹ Shall I acquit someone with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights?

¹² Your rich people are violent; your inhabitants are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.

¹³ Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins.

¹⁴ You will eat but not be satisfied; your stomach will still be empty.

You will store up but save nothing, because what you save I will give to the sword.

¹⁵ You will plant but not harvest;

you will press olives but not use the oil, you will crush grapes but not drink the wine. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Closing excerpts from chapter 7. The beauty of God’s short temper, but everlasting love.

STUDENT:

CH. 7

“As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show them my wonders.”

¹⁶ Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their power.

They will put their hands over their mouths and their ears will become deaf.....

They will come trembling out of their dens;

they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you.

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us;

you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. (NIV)

NEXT LESSON NAHUM

God will bring me out of my darkness into the light, and I will see his goodness. ” Micah 7:9b

The Tomb of the Prophet Micah in Kabul Israel,
still visited by tourists today.



