

The Book of Micah

Key Verses:

1. The Definition of what God considers to be **good**

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

2. Announcement of the Messiah's **Birthplace**

Micah 5:2 But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3. God's **Grace** defined

Micah 7:18-19

18 **Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity**, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because **he delighteth in mercy**.

19 He will turn again, **he will have compassion upon us**; he will subdue our iniquities; and **thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea**.

Author: Micah (who is like **God**)

The word has the same derivation as **Michael** (the name of the archangel) which means "who is like God?"

- There are many Micah's mentioned in the Scriptures
- This man is identified as a Morasthite (Mic. 1:1)
- An inhabitant of Moresheth-gath (Mic. 1:14), a place about **twenty** miles southwest of Jerusalem, near Lachish.

He was a man from the southern kingdom, a great deal of his prophecy had to do with the northern kingdom. He spoke to the nation during the time that the northern kingdom was being attacked by Assyria.

The southern kingdom was attacked also but it was **the northern kingdom that actually was carried away into Assyrian captivity.**

A contemporary of three other prophets: **Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos.**

It is possible that he was a friend of Isaiah, and his prophecy has been called that of a **miniature Book of Isaiah.**

Major Prophecy: First prediction of the **birthplace** of the Messiah (**Micah 5:2**)

Date Written: **686-739** B.C.

Purpose: To warn both **Jerusalem** and **Samaria** to repent and turn back to God.

To whom written: Both the northern kingdom (Israel) and southern kingdom (**Judah**).

Unique Features of this Book

1. Micah was the first prophet to predict the **Babylonian** captivity and restoration of the Southern Kingdom (**Micah 4:9**)

2. Micah like **Isaiah** prophecies of the Millennial reign (**Micah 4:1-3; Isaiah 2:2-4**)
3. Micah is unique for the number and precision of his prophecies:
 - The fall of Israel the **northern** kingdom (**Micah 1:6-7**)
 - The invasion of **Judah** by Sennacherib in 701 B.C. (**Micah 1:9, 12**)
 - The destruction of Jerusalem and the **Temple** (**Micah 3:12**)
 - **Judah's** Babylonian captivity (**Micah 4:10**)
 - **Judah's** return from captivity (**Micah 4:10**)
 - The exact name of **Christ's** birthplace (**Micah 5:2**)
4. A quotation from the book of Micah may have saved the life of **Jeremiah** the prophet many years later (see **Jeremiah 26:16-18; Micah 3:12**).
5. Both Micah and Isaiah were called upon to walk around ill clothed to illustrate how God would strip away the power and pride of those to be judged (**Isaiah 20:2-4; Micah 1:8**).
6. Micah exposes sins of Israel's greedy rich **rulers** (**Micah 2:1-10; 3:1-4; 6:10-12**).
7. His book gives us what God **desires** from His people: (**Micah 6:8**)
8. Micah describes how the sin of a nation affects the **families** in that nation. (**Micah 7:5, 6**)
9. The book of Micah closes with glorious description of God's **love** (**Micah 7:18-20**)

This little book can be divided in an interesting way. The more natural division of the prophecy is to note that Micah gave three messages, each beginning with the injunction, "**Hear**" (Mic. 1:2, 3:1; 6:1). The first message is addressed to "**all people,**" and the second message is addressed **specifically to the leaders of Israel**. The third message is **a personal word of pleading to Israel to repent and return to God**.

Outline

- I. The Prophet's First Message Directed to Samaria, Reaches to Jerusalem (Micah 1–2)
- II. The Prophet's Second Message aimed at the leaders (Micah 3-5)
- III. The Prophet's Third Message God's Controversy (Micah 6-7)