

## ***Micah - Overview***

---

### **Introduction / Overview:**

#### **Type: Minor Prophet**

**Author: Micah** - this name being an abridged version of "Micaiah" which means "*Who is like unto Jehovah.*"

Referred to:

**Jeremiah 26:18** "Micah (Micaiah in Hebrew) of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah..."

- He is referred to as "Micah of Moresheth" to distinguish him from another elder prophet of the same name, Micah the son of Imlah mentioned in **1 Kings 22:8** as well as a few others named Micah.
- King Ahab hated Micaiah the son of Imlah because he spoke truth against wicked king Ahab.

**Time Written: 750-687 BC**      **During the reigns of:**

1. Jotham, a good king who reigned from 750-732 BC, 16 years.
  2. Ahaz, a very bad king, who reigned from 735-716 BC, 16 years.
  3. Hezekiah, a good king, who reigned from 716-687 BC, 29 years.
- A span of 61 years from 750-687 BC., roughly the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, contemporary with Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea.
  - It was under Micah's influence that king Hezekiah proceeded with the great reforms, turning the nation back to Jehovah.

**Written to: Samaria and Jerusalem**, the capitals of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms respectively, thus to Israel as a whole.

- Micah is unique in that he was the only prophet sent to both the Southern kingdom of Judah, and the Northern kingdom of Israel.

**Theme:** The sin of the nation, the destruction that results from that, and the mercy of God that brings the eventual restoration of the nation.

- Micah repeats many of the warnings from Isaiah to the point that some have referred to Micah as an abridged version of Isaiah.
- Micah saw the coming judgment of the Israel under Assyria (722) as well as the fall of Jerusalem and Judah under the Babylonians (606–596).

- He sought to call the Jews back to the faithful worship of Jehovah and sincere obedience to His covenant, but they refused to listen.
- He also pled for social justice and a concern for the helpless, but the people would not repent.

**Key Verse: Micah 6:8** “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

## Chapter 1: “Prophecy Against the Nation.”

V: 1 “*The Word of the LORD that came to Micah...*”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- Micah of Moresbeth: 25 miles South West of Jerusalem near Gath. Even though Micah was contemporary to Isaiah, unlike Isaiah he was from a humbler / lower social class, more the common man. 
- Moresbeth was his birthplace and his burial place; a small church built over his grave thus designating the location.

“... *which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.*”

- Micah is also given a vision of things to come, he see’s the forthcoming judgment - so that he can warn the people.

**Proverbs 29:18** “Where there is no revelation / vision, the people perish...”

**Amos 3:7** “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

V: 2 This message is to all people of the earth.

- “*Lord GOD*” - Lord - “Adonai” - GOD - “Yahweh” / “Jehovah”

V: 5 The respective capitals of the Northern and Southern kingdoms, Samaria & Jerusalem, the center of power, and corruption, and compromise away from the True and Living God.

**Proverbs 14:34** “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

- Each of these nations in turn, turned away from God - and the inevitable result of that is destruction.

**Ezekiel 18:20** “The soul that sinneth it shall die...”

## Chapter 2: “Woe to the Nation.”

V: 1 “Woe to those who...”

“Woe” (H-1945) “Hoy” - Pronouncement of cursing, or judgment upon a person or nation typically for doing evil. A lamentation for the dead.

**Amos 3:2** “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

- As we move through this chapter God holds them accountable for two basic sins:

1. **Covetousness / materialism.**
2. **Listening to false prophets.**

- There are those who lay awake at night scheming about wicked murderous things, how they can cheat people and steal what is not rightfully theirs, bilking people out of their retirement savings and so on.

**Proverbs 4:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. <sup>17</sup>For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.”

V: 6 They tell the prophets not to “prattle” - no to speak at length in an inconsequential way. In other words, they don’t value what the prophet is speaking to them.

**Isaiah 30:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; <sup>10</sup>who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.”

- They rejected the Word of God.

**Jeremiah 17:13** “O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed. Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.”

**Proverbs 13:13** “He who despises the Word will be destroyed...”

V: 11 A man walking in a false spirit, speaking lies, like prosperity and joy - he would be a prattler of this people - a false prophet.

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

### **Chapter 3: “Rulers Rebuked.”**

V: 1-2 A warning to the heads of the nation, to the leaders, who not only should know the law of God, but they also do the opposite of what God wants - hating what is good and loving what is evil.

**Isaiah 5:20** “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

V: 5 To the prophets who make the people stray:

**Jeremiah 14:14** “And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.”

V: 12 As a result of all of this, Jerusalem shall be plowed like a field and be left a heap of ruins.

**Hosea 8:7** “They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind...”

### **Chapter 4: “The Latter Days.”**

V: 1-8 Describe the Millennial reign of our Lord Jesus.

**Isaiah 1:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations / peoples shall flow to it. <sup>3</sup>Many people shall come and say, come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

**Revelation 20:1-4** ([Turn to / read](#))

- The remainder of the chapter highlights their present circumstances and judgment.

**Chapter 5: “The Coming Messiah.”**

**V: 2** This verse describes the future birthplace of the Messiah:

**Matthew 2:1** “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.”

- The “Bread of Life” - Jesus would be born in Bethlehem - the house of bread.

**Luke 2:4-7** “<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was great with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**V: 4** The Messiah, our Great Shepherd does what shepherds do, He feeds the flock.

**Isaiah 40:11** “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

- When He comes back it will be in the strength, and majesty of name of the LORD His God - God Almighty! He will come back in great glory!
- His greatness will be seen to the ends of the earth.
- The chapter goes on to describe a type of the Anti-Christ and the destruction of the nation.

**Chapter 6: “The Lord’s Indictment Against Israel.”**

**V: 1-2** The Lord has a complaint, an indictment against Israel.

- Plead your case before these witnesses - the mountains and the hills are witness to their behavior.

**Deuteronomy 30:19** “I call heaven and earth as witness today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

**Psalm 50:4** “He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.”

- <sup>2</sup>The Lord will contend with Israel, KJV “plead” with Israel.

“*Contend*” (H-3198) “yakah” - to argue, to convince, to plead, or contend.

**Isaiah 1:18** “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

**V: 3** What have I done to make you act this way?

- He goes on to list the miracles and the blessings which should cause them to love Him all the more, not despise Him.

**V: 8** The Lord’s response through Micah - you know what to do you’ve been shown, 3 simple points.

- Do the right thing, do justly, do righteously.

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup>and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

- We can’t do justly unless we’ve been justified - by the blood of the Lamb through faith.

**Proverbs 21:3** “To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.”

- Love mercy: It’s hard to love mercy unless we’ve experienced the mercy of God.

**Matthew 5:7** “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

**Colossians 3:12** “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.

- Walk humbly with your God: We can do that because He did that and lead the way.

**James 5:6** “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

- Walking in submission to His authority in our lives, letting Him lead and guide as He sees fit.

**Jeremiah 10:23** “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

**1 Peter 5:6** “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

**Matthew 5:3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- In the remainder of the chapter God makes His appeal for them to repent and do what is right.

## **Chapter 7: “Israel’s Ultimate Restoration.”**

V: 1 “*Woe*” (H-1945) “Hoy” - Pronouncement of cursing, or judgment upon a person or nation typically for doing evil. A lamentation for the dead.

“*Woe is me*” - “I am cursed” - “I am judged”

**Isaiah 6:5** “So I said; “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

- I am like those who gather summer fruits after the harvest, seeking to glean from the vine, but there is nothing left.

**Jeremiah 8:20** “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

V: 2 Good men are scarce, hard to find, things are bad.

V: 7 These things are all too big for any of us to deal with, his only hope, our only hope is the Lord.

**Psalm 55:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me.  
<sup>17</sup>Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”

**Psalm 121:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

**V: 8** Don't rejoice or gloat over me - God isn't done with me yet.

- The prophet then describes the victory that God will give them, the nations will be ashamed and Israel will be lifted up.

Then the closing doxology of praise:

V: 18-20 There is no god like our God, none that forgive like He does!

**Exodus 34:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup>keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”

**Psalms 35:10** “All my bones shall say, “LORD, who is like You, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?”

**Isaiah 46:9** “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me.”

**V: 19** Knowing that God is merciful, gracious, and forgiving - that He delights in mercy and will have compassion upon them, and on us.