

# THE BOOK OF MICAH

## *Introduction & Chapters 1-2*

*Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Sunday Adult Bible Class*

**AUTHOR:** Micah

1. His name means "Who is like Jehovah?"
2. He is from the village of Moreseth-gath (1:1,14), some 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
3. Nothing is known of the prophet's occupation.

**AUDIENCE:** the book is written to Judah (particularly to the "common people").

**DATE:** 700 B.C.

**THE SETTING:**

1. Micah prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (1:1)
  - a. Jotham: basically a good king, but he did not remove the high places of idolatry from the kingdom (see 2 Kings 15:32-35).
  - b. Ahaz: a wicked king; it was during his reign that the captivity of the northern tribes occurred (see 2 Kings 16:2-4).
  - c. Hezekiah: a good king who withstood the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem in 701 B.C. (see 2 Kings 18:13-19:36).
2. The common people faced threats from enemy armies and exploitation from the wealthy (2:1-13; 3:1-4), oppression by unscrupulous rulers (2:1ff.; 3:10), and false prophets (3:5-8,9-11) -the time was one of scorn for true religion (3:5-8; 5:12-14), lack of integrity (6:12; 7:2-6), and greedy corruption (7:3).
3. Idolatry, immorality, covetousness, lawlessness, bloodshed, false religion, dishonesty, oppression, deceit, hatred, bribery, and treachery are all denounced in the book.
4. For further information, see 2 Kings 15:32- 20:21 & 2 Chronicles 27:1- 32:33.

**THE THEME:**

1. The book is a rebuke against exploiters, evil rulers, false prophets, wicked priest, and idolatry .
2. Micah announced the doom of Samaria and Jerusalem, and predicted the coming of the Messiah.

**SOME FULFILLED PROPHECIES IN THE BOOK CONCERNING THE MESSIAH:**

1. His birth in Bethlehem, 5:2 (Matthew 2:6; John 7:42).
2. His Kingship, 5:2 (Matthew 2:2).
3. His being smitten, 5:1 (Matthew 27:30).
4. His charge to His disciples, 7:6 (Matthew 10:35-36)

## MICAH CHAPTERS 1 & 2

### I. A MESSAGE OF DESTRUCTION FOR SAMARIA & JUDAH, chapter 1

#### A. God is coming in judgment against Samaria and Judah, vv .1- 7

1. The Lord God is witness against the people.
2. God is coming forth to tread upon the high places of the earth for the transgression of Jacob (Israel & Judah) and the sins of the house of Israel.
3. Samaria will be made as an heap of the field, and the idolatry therein destroyed.

*NOTE:*

- a. Samaria was the capitol of the northern kingdom; the whole northern kingdom was built upon a false foundation -see 1 Kings 12*
- b. Ahab built a temple to Baal in Samaria (1 Kings 16:32-33).*
- c. The city was captured by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, in 722 B.C. (2 Kings 18:9-10).*

#### B. There shall be wailing in the land, vv .8-16

1. Her "wound is incurable" -Micah traces the path of the invader from the coastal plain up to the gate of Jerusalem.
2. "Make thee bald" -that is, "cut off your hair" as a sign of mourning, because captivity is coming!

### II. THE REASONS FOR THE COMING JUDGMENT, chapter 2

#### A. Woe to those who devise evil. vv .1-11

1. There are those in the land who lie awake scheming and planning evil.
2. There are covetous people in the land and oppressors.
3. The haughty shall be humbled and a "doleful lamentation" shall be taken up against the people.
4. The wicked rich have done deceitfully.
5. Verse 11 accurately describes the kind of "prophet" the people want.

#### B. God will bring back the faithful remnant, w. 12-13

1. God will assemble Jacob, and gather the remnant of Israel as sheep, as a flock.
2. Here is a promise of restoration.

## MICAH, *Chapters 3 - 4*

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### I. A MESSAGE OF DOOM, chapter 3

#### A. God's indictment against the rulers, vv. 1-4

1. They hated good and loved evil.
2. They have been merciless to the people

#### B. God's indictment against false prophets, vv. 5-8

1. The false prophets make God's people err.
2. They inflict harm and pain ("bite with their teeth") while crying "peace."
3. They shall be in darkness; they shall be ashamed and confounded.
4. In contrast, Micah is a true prophet (verse 8).

#### C. God's indictment against Jerusalem, vv. 9-12

1. Zion (Jerusalem) has been "build up" with blood and iniquity.
2. The rulers ("head"), priest, and prophets are motivated only by money, while thinking themselves secure ("none evil can come upon us").
3. But when Zion is "plowed as a field" it will be the rulers fault!

### II. A MESSAGE OF DELIVERANCE, chapter 4

#### A. The glories of the Messiah's kingdom, vv. 1-8

1. Note verses 1-3 (and compare with Isaiah 2:2-4)

#### **THE MESSIAH'S KINGDOM:**

- a. "the last days" = the gospel age (Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:1-2).
- b. "mountain" = government, kingdom, rule (see Daniel 2:35, 44).
- c. "house of the Lord" = Messiah's kingdom, the church (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15).
- d. "top of the mountains. ...exalted above the hills" = God's kingdom will be superior to any earthly kingdom.
- e. "people shall flow unto it many nations shall come" = universal Kingdom, including Gentiles
- f. "teach. ..walk" = the teaching in the kingdom is from heaven.
- g. "law shall go forth of Zion. ..the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" = this is where the beginning will be (see Luke 24:46-49; Acts 2:1 ff.).
- h. Verse 3: a description of the spiritual nature of the Messiah's kingdom (Luke 17:20-21).
  - (1) "he shall judge..." = the Messiah, Christ (Head, King- see Colossians 1:18).
  - (2) "beat their swords into plowshares. .." = not a reference to carnal warfare, but a prophetic picture of people of all nations inhabiting the Messiah's kingdom -an ideal picture, if people will accept the gospel (compare Ezekiel 34:20-26 and Ephesians 2:11-18).

2. Verse 4: a description of peace, security, and safety in the Messiah's kingdom (cf. 1 Kings 4:24-25).
3. Walking in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever!
4. The remnant -those cast far off -shall become a "strong nation" (see Hebrews 12:21- 24, 28).
5. The kingdom shall come to the daughter of Zion!

B. Suffering precedes the coming of the Kingdom, vv. 9-13

1. Captivity in Babylon is coming before the kingdom; then shall the Lord redeem them.
2. Many nations will gather against Israel, but God is Israel's Deliverer!

***MESSIANIC PROMISE -IMMEDIATE FUTURE- MESSIANIC PROMISE AGAIN (chapter 5)***

## MICAH, *Chapters 5-7*

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### I. DOOM & DELIVERANCE, chapter 5

#### A. The fate of King Zedekiah, v. 1

1. Judah 's enemy will lay siege against them.
2. King Zedekiah ("the judge of Israel" at the time) shall be smitten with a rod upon the cheek (see 2 Kings 24:17-25:7).

#### B. The coming King, vv .2-6

1. The ruler of Israel is to come forth out of Bethlehem!
  - a. A prophecy of the Messiah's birthplace!
  - b. Bethlehem was not a prominent city in the Old Testament; Mary was not from there; and Jesus' hometown would be considered Nazareth (Matthew 2:23) -yet God chose this place for the birth of His Son!
  - c. See Matthew 2:4-6; Luke 2:1-16; John 7:40-42
2. Notice also in verse 2 these amazing words:
  - a. "shall come ..." = future tense -a future birth.
  - b. "have been. .." = past tense -His pre-existence (see Matthew 22:41-46; John 3:13; 6:62; 8:56-58; 17:5; Colossians 1:17).
  - c. "of old, from everlasting" = a Ruler in eternity; Deity (see Psalm 55: 19; 90:2; Daniel 7:9; Habakkuk 1:12).
3. "give them up, until. .." -Judah will be waiting for the Messiah
  - a. "travaileth...brought forth" = His birth (see Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Luke I :26-35; 2:7; Galatians 4:4).
  - b. "return" = Gospel reconciliation!
4. A description of the Messiah, vv. 4-6
  - a. A Shepherd! ("stand and feed...")
  - b. Great!
  - c. "the peace" -compare Ephesians 2:14
  - d. A conqueror -spiritual weapons (see 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:17)

#### C. The coming Kingdom of the coming King, vv. 7-15

1. Note the description of the Messiah's kingdom, written in the language of the prophets:
  - a. Wars would be won by the power of truth.
  - b. God would be the Defense of those in the kingdom.
  - c. Sorcery would be abolished.
  - d. No religion of paganism.
2. A powerful Kingdom" *none can reject the Messiah and survive!*

## II. DENUNCIATION, chapter 6

### A. God's first indictment against His people, vv. 1-5

1. The Lord has a controversy with His people.
2. Note what God had done for them -what had God done wrong?
3. God brought His people into the promised land.

### B. Israel's reply to God's indictment, vv 6-8

1. Israel had forgotten how to come before God!
  - a. With what shall Israel come before God?
  - b. Shall she bring burnt offerings? Thousands of rams? Ten thousands of rivers of oil? The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (see Psalm 61: 16-17).
2. God had shown them what was good: (cf. Deuteronomy 10:12-13)
  - a. To do justly.
  - b. To love mercy.
  - c. To walk humbly with God.

### C. God's second indictment against His people, vv. 9-16

1. The Lord's voice cries unto the city!
  - a. Continuing dishonesty and corruption prevail.
  - b. The people shall be in want, and another shall take their goods.
  - c. Apostasy continues (on "Omri," see I Kings 16-22).
2. Judgment!

## III. REPLY & REMNANT, chapter 7

### A. Israel's second reply, vv. 1-6

1. Woe is me! Zion wails, for no righteousness is found in her, and sin is unrestrained.
2. Note verse 6 and compare with Matthew 10:36

### B. The righteous remnant, vv. 7-20

1. The righteous remnant will recognize their sin and turn to God.
2. The following verses describe blessings for Israel when she returns.
3. Note God's mercy in verse 18-20
  - a. God's forgiveness is complete (compare Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 1:18; 55:7; Ezekiel 18:22; Acts 3:19; Romans 4:7 -8; Hebrews 8:12; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 1:5).
  - b. God's forgiveness must be desired: the forgiveness here is to the penitent ones (verse 7-9) -man must seek God's forgiveness (compare Luke 23:24 with Acts 2:23, 28).