

Book of Micah

Study BIBLE



Introduction

Book No	33
Name	Micah
Written By	Micah
Testament	Old
Category	Minor Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 742 - 687 BC
Place Written	Israel
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To warn God's people that judgment is coming and to offer pardon to all who repent
History Covered	742 - 687 BC
Chapters	7
Verses	105
Key Verse	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? (6:8)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jerusalem people ❖ Samaria people
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jerusalem ❖ Bethlehem

Purpose of the Book

The casual use of such words as love and hate has emptied them of their meaning. We no longer understand statements that describe a loving God who hates sin. So we picture God as gentle and kind—a cosmic “pushover”; and our concept of what he hates is tempered by our misconceptions and wishful thinking.

The words of the prophets stand in stark contrast to such misconceptions. God’s hatred is real—burning, consuming, and destroying. He hates sin, and he stands as the righteous Judge, ready to mete out just punishment to all who defy his rule. God’s love is also real. So real that he sent his Son, the Messiah, to save and accept judgment in the sinner’s place. Love and hate are together—both unending, irresistible, and unfathomable.

In seven short chapters, Micah presents this true picture of God—the almighty Lord who hates sin and loves the sinner. Much of the book is devoted to describing God’s judgment on Israel (the northern kingdom), on Judah (the southern kingdom), and on all the earth. This judgment will come “because of the sins and rebellion of Israel and Judah” (1:5). And the prophet lists their despicable sins, including fraud (2:2), theft (2:8), greed (2:9), debauchery (2:11), oppression (3:3), hypocrisy (3:4), heresy (3:5), injustice (3:9), extortion and lying (6:12), murder (7:2), and other offenses. God’s judgment will come.

In the midst of this overwhelming prediction of destruction, Micah gives hope and consolation because he also describes God’s love. The truth is that judgment comes only after countless opportunities to repent, to turn back to true worship and obedience—“to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God ” (6:8). But even in the midst of judgment, God promises to deliver the small minority who have continued to follow him. He states, “Your king will lead you; the LORD himself will guide you.” (2:13). The king, of course, is Jesus; and we read in 5:2 that he will be born as a baby in Bethlehem, an obscure Judean village.

Micah has much to contribute to the knowledge of one’s ongoing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Relief from the foremost moral and religious sins of greed and idolatry in that ancient day can be had today by following Jesus into the kingdom of God. Micah’s prophecy should make everyone stand in awe of the incomparable Yahweh who revealed Himself in the humanity of Jesus as the compassion and truth of God personified.

Micah's generation was overrun by mercenary activities of faithless rulers, priests, and prophets (3:11). Contrast these with that greatest of all "Shepherd of the sheep" (Heb. 13:20), whose compassion caused Him to give Himself for the sheep, even to pouring out His blood. Likewise, Micah, a true prophet of God, was willing to pay any personal price to perform his ministry, even to being stripped naked for the sake of his message. As you read Micah, catch a glimpse of God's anger in action as he judges and punishes sin. See God's love in action as he offers eternal life to all who repent and believe. And then determine to join the faithful remnant of God's people, who live according to his will.

Overview

- ❖ 33rd book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 6th of the 12 minor prophets and 11th of the 17 prophetic books
- ❖ 1/3 of Micah's book exposes the sins of his own countrymen.
- ❖ 1/3 of the book depicts the punishment God is about to send.
- ❖ 1/3 holds out the hope of restoration once the punishment has ended.
- ❖ Micah was from Moresheth Gath, located some 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem on the border of Judah and Philistia, near Gath.
- ❖ Micah prophesied during the days of three kings of Judah:
 - Jothan (739-731 B.C.)
 - Ahaz (731-715 B.C.)
 - Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.)
- ❖ Although Micah deals primarily with the Southern Kingdom (Judah), he also addresses the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and predicts the fall of Samaria (6:1).
- ❖ Micah's prophecies ranged from about 735 to 710 B.C., a period of some 25 years.
- ❖ Micah was a contemporary of:
 - Hosea in the Northern Kingdom.
 - Isaiah in the court of Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom.
- ❖ At the time of Micah's ministry, Babylon was still under Assyrian domination and would be until:
- ❖ Babylon would rebel against Assyria in 626 B.C., some 96 years after the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.
- ❖ Then 16 years later in 612 B.C. Babylon would overthrow Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrians.

- ❖ This would be approximately 150 years after God had spared the city of Nineveh at the preaching of Jonah.
- ❖ Judah's specific sins included:
 - Oppression
 - Bribery among judges, prophets, and priests
 - Exploitation of the powerless
 - Covetousness
 - Cheating - Merchants used deceptive weights
 - Pride

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Micah

- ❖ ELOHIM

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Prophecies of Christ make Micah's book glow with hope and encouragement. The book opens with a magnificent display of Yahweh's coming (1:3–5). It will be for later prophecies to assert the personal aspect of His arrival in historical time. But the disposition of God to come down and interact is established at the outset.

The first messianic prophecy occurs in a shepherding scene. After their homeland had been defiled and destroyed, a remnant of the captives would be rounded up like sheep enclosed in a fold. Then one would break open the enclosure and lead them out the gate into freedom (2:12, 13). This one is their "king" and "LORD." The whole episode accords beautifully with Jesus' announcement of liberty to captives (Luke 4:18), while actually setting the physical and spiritual captives free.

Micah 5:2 is one of the most famous of all Old Testament prophecies. It authenticates biblical prophecy as "the word of the LORD" (1:1; 2:7; 4:2). The term Yahweh's "word" (4:2) is a title applicable to Christ (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13). The Micah 5:2 prophecy is explicitly messianic ("Ruler in Israel") and specifies His birthplace as Bethlehem at a time when Bethlehem was hardly known. His words were given many centuries before the event; he had no local cues to draw on. Another feature of this prophecy is that it cannot refer to just any leader who might originate from Bethlehem. Christ is the only one to whom it could refer, because it equates the Ruler with the eternal One: "Whose

goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.” This prophecy asserts both the humanity and deity of the Messiah in a sublime manner.

The prophecy of Micah 5:4, 5 asserts the Messiah’s shepherdhood (“feed His *flock*”), His anointing (“in the strength of the LORD”), His deity (“in the majesty of the name of the LORD”) and humanity (“His God”), His universal dominion (“He shall be great to the ends of the earth”), and His being the leader of a peaceful kingdom (“this *One* shall be peace”).

The climax of the prophecy (7:18, 19) plus the final verse (7:20), while not including the name of the Messiah, definitely refer to Him. In the expression of divine mercy and compassion, He is the One who “will subdue our iniquities,” dropping them into the ocean depths that God might pardon sins and replace sin with truth.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

One outstanding reference to the Spirit of God occurs in Micah’s contrast of the authority behind his ministry with that of the counterfeit prophets of his day. While other men were made bold by intoxicants to fabricate tales in the format of prophecies, the true power, might, and justice behind Micah’s message came from his anointing “by the Spirit of the LORD” (3:8).

Mega Themes of Micah

PERVERTING FAITH

God will judge the false prophets, dishonest leaders, and selfish priests in Israel and Judah. While they publicly carried out religious ceremonies, they were privately seeking to gain money and influence. To mix selfish motives with an empty display of religion is to pervert faith.

Don’t try to mix your own selfish desires with true faith in God. One day God will reveal how foolish it is to substitute anything for loyalty to him. Coming up with your own private blend of religion will pervert your faith.

OPPRESSION

Micah predicted ruin for all nations and leaders who were oppressive toward others. The upper classes oppressed and exploited the poor. Yet no one was speaking against them or doing anything to stop them. God will not put up with such injustice.

We dare not ask God to help us while we ignore those who are needy and oppressed, or while we silently condone the actions of those who oppress them.

THE MESSIAH—KING OF PEACE

God promised to provide a new king to bring strength and peace to his people. Hundreds of years before Christ's birth, God promised that the eternal King would be born in Bethlehem. It was God's great plan to restore his people through the Messiah.

Christ our king leads us just as God promised. But until his final judgment, his leadership is only visible among those who welcome his authority. We can have God's peace now by giving up our sins and welcoming him as king.

PLEASING GOD

Micah preached that God's greatest desire was not the offering of sacrifices at the Temple. God delights in faith that produces justice, love for others, and obedience to him.

True faith in God generates kindness, compassion, justice, and humility. We can please God by seeking these attributes in our work, our family, our church, and our neighborhood.

Life Lessons in Micah

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Micah offers the straightforward and uncomplicated essence of what it means to walk in godliness. Its simplicity stands in sharp contrast to human religious efforts aimed at earning God's favor or forgiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recognize that the Messiah, about whom Micah prophesies, is Jesus. In Him alone is salvation (Matt. 2:1, 5, 6; Acts 4:12). ❖ Understand that God has accomplished everything necessary for our salvation and righteousness. ❖ We cannot add to it, no matter how extravagant or costly our sacrifice. ❖ Respond to what God has done for you by walking in godliness. Live justly; do what is right to those around you with mercy, kindness, and faithfulness. Walk humbly with your God, acknowledging your

	<p>complete dependence on Him. Make getting to know Him better a priority every day.</p>
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Micah beautifully displays God’s deep compassion toward His people. God is portrayed as teacher; restorer; shepherd; vindicator; the One who does wonders, forgives, shows compassion and mercy, and brings peace. Let worship and adoration be your heart’s response to God as you meditate on these qualities. He wants to show Himself to you as all of these things and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ask God to be your teacher so that you will become more sensitive to His ways and be better able to walk in obedience. Understand that we are living in the latter days, and receive today His promises of peace, provision, and revelation. ❖ Look to and expectantly wait for God. He will bring light into your darkness. Where there is sin in your life, ask forgiveness. Thank Him and praise Him for all He has done and will do for you. ❖ Look to God as your Shepherd, who gently cares for and feeds His flock. Study the Bible. ❖ Knowing the Lord Shepherd brings comfort and security to your relationship with Him. ❖ Think about and dwell on God’s forgiveness, which not only overcomes our iniquities, but casts them to a place where they can never be retrieved. ❖ Respond to God by receiving His forgiveness and freedom. Then, worship Him with your whole heart.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>God promised judgment against His people because they had deliberately transgressed His law. Yet, Micah proclaims God’s commitment to save</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that God’s judgment was not arbitrary. ❖ God’s law was clear. He sent prophets to warn His people and give them the opportunity to turn from their sin, but

<p>a remnant of those who will be forgiven and restored. Micah's message challenges us today to walk as God's redeemed remnant, being light in the darkness and walking steadfastly in the name of the Lord our God.</p>	<p>Israel and Judah refused. Hear the message of Micah today; turn from your sin, and return to the Lord. He desires to restore you fully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Refuse to walk in the ways of the ungodly. Set your heart, mind, and will to follow the Lord and to walk in His ways. ❖ Understand that GOD will eventually root out any dependence we show upon things that HE has not established or way HE has not directed
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Micah's life challenges us to live a life "full of power by the Spirit of the LORD"—a life in which we speak the word of God with authority and integrity. It is the birthright of every believer in Jesus, the Messiah, to receive and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ By faith, receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and walk in it. Speak the word of God with boldness and integrity. (Read more about life in the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts). ❖ Believe that God will use you by the power of His Holy Spirit in ways even more wondrous than He demonstrated among the children of Israel (John 14:12). ❖ Remember that GOD's WORD always accomplishes the good for which it is intended ❖ Believe that GOD will eventually funnel the world's wealth to those who will serve HIS kingdom's concerns and interests ❖ Understand that only GOD can judge HIS people. Trust that HE will also restore them

<p>Keys to wise living</p> <p>Wisdom teaches us to accept GOD's assessment of man as difficult as it may be due to our humanistic milieu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be warned that only listening to what we want to hear will breed disobedience and ungodliness
<p>Lessons for leaders</p> <p>Spiritual leadership is a sacred trust. Though often coveted by the spiritual neophyte it is a costly role for anyone who serves in it. Leaders are asked to speak forth boldly and must not use their positions to secure financial position or undue power for themselves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nevers discourage leaders from speaking the whole counsel of GOD ❖ Do not reprove teachers for speaking correction or warning ❖ Refuse to listen to GOD's WORD selectively. Receive the corrective as well as the affirmative ❖ Leaders believe that GOD will stop speaking in revelation to leaders who become mercenary in their ministries ❖ Leaders be warned never never set a price on your ministry ❖ Never deceitfully seduce people to become your financial support by using psychological or spiritual manipulation

Praise Points in Micah

- ❖ His restoration, which he has promised for his people (2:12-13)
- ❖ His love for all people (4:1-2)
- ❖ His peace that he gives to those who love him (4:3-4)
- ❖ His promise to gather his people together and be their king (4:6-8)
- ❖ His promise of a ruler who will lead his people (5:2-4)
- ❖ His requirements for his people, which call for a pure heart (6:8)
- ❖ His attentiveness to our cries for help (7:7)
- ❖ His mercy and compassion upon his sinful people (7:18-20).

Worship Insights in Micah

- ❖ Those entrenched in sin do not like to hear anything from the Lord (2:6-10).

- ❖ The Lord desires to restore his people, though they sin and must be punished (2:12-13).
- ❖ Those who are filled with God's Spirit speak the truth, regardless of the popularity of their messages (3:7-8).
- ❖ God calls people from every nation to follow him (4:1-2).
- ❖ True worship produces right actions that flow out of a merciful and humble heart (6:8).
- ❖ Earthly pleasures alone can never fully satisfy us (6:14).
- ❖ God honors those who wait upon him (7:7-8).

An Outline of Micah

I. What Is the Transgression of My People? [Mic 1:1-16](#)

- A. The Response of Nature to the Appearance of God [Mic 1:2-4](#)
- B. The Response of Samaria to the Appearance of God [Mic 1:5-7](#)
- C. The Response of Judah to the Appearance of God [Mic 1:8-16](#)
- D. Conclusion

II. Is the Spirit of the Lord Restricted? [Mic 2:1-13](#)

- A. The Evil of Coveting [Mic 2:1-5](#)
- B. The Evil of Placebo Preaching [Mic 2:6-11](#)
- C. Conclusion: [Mic 2:12-13](#)

III. Is There No Word From the Lord? [Mic 3:1-12](#)

- A. Answers for the Abuse of Position [Mic 3:1-4](#)
- B. Answers for the Abuse of Proclamation [Mic 3:5-8](#)
- C. Answers for the Abuse of Privilege [Mic 3:9-12](#)
- D. Conclusion

IV. Will God's King Not Come and Reign? Mic. 4:1-5:15

- A. The Prominence of the Mountain of the Lord [Mic 4:1-8](#)
- B. The Working of the Counsel of the Lord Mic. 4:9-5:1
- C. The Birth of the Davidic King [Mic 5:2-9](#)
- D. The Cleansing of the Land [Mic 5:10-15](#)
- E. Conclusion

V. What Does the Lord Require of Us? [Mic 6:1-16](#)

- A. Have I Mistreated You? [Mic 6:1-3](#)
- B. Have I Required Too Much From You? [Mic 6:4-8](#)
- C. Have I Approved of Your Exploiting One Another? [Mic 6:9-12](#)
- D. Have I Blessed Your Get-Rich-Quick Schemes? [Mic 6:13-16](#)
- E. Conclusion

VI. Where Is the Lord Our God? [Mic 7:1-10](#)

- A. When We Look for Just One Righteous Person [Mic 7:1-4](#)
- B. When We Look for Just One Friend [Mic 7:5-7](#)
- C. When We Look for Just One Adjudicator [Mic 7:8-10](#)
- D. Conclusion

VII. Who Is a Pardoning God Like Ours? [Mic 7:11-20](#)

- A. In the Rebuilding of His People [Mic 7:11-13](#)
 - 1. Their Walls—[Mic 7:11](#)
 - 2. Their New Boundaries—[Mic 7:11](#)
 - 3. Their Population—[Mic 7:12-13](#)
- B. In the Resumption of His Marvelous Deeds [Mic 7:14-17](#)
 - 1. Of Shepherding—[Mic 7:14](#)
 - 2. Of Working Miracles—[Mic 7:15](#)
 - 3. Of Conquering Nations—[Mic 7:16-17](#)
- C. In the Remission of Our Sins [Mic 7:18-20](#)
 - 1. Based on Who He Is—[Mic 7:18](#)
 - 2. Based on What He Will Do—[Mic 7:19-20](#)
- D. Conclusion