

Snapshot of Micah

The Prophet:

The name Micah is an abbreviated form of the Hebrew name Micaiah and means “Who is like Jehovah?”

The prophet Micah was from Moresheth-gath, which was a small town on the border between Judah and Philistia. Micah was seemingly a commoner, for he appeared to be very sensitive to the burdens of the poor and downtrodden.

We know practically nothing of him as a person, but he was a man of the Spirit ready to prophesy (3:8).

The Date:

Micah appears to have begun his ministry before the destruction of Samaria in 722 B.C. (1:5). From the superscription to the book, we are told that his work was rather long. He was active during the reigns of Jotham (739-735), Ahaz (735-715), and Hezekiah (715-686). The period of 735-700 seems to be a good estimation of when Micah prophesied. Study 2 Kings 15:32-20:21 and 2 Chronicles 27:1-32:33 for the historical setting to Micah’s prophecy.

The Message:

Micah prophesied concerning both Samaria (the capital of Israel) and Jerusalem (the capital of Judah), but the bulk of his message was directed to the southern kingdom of Judah.

Micah deals with social morality and religious duty. The people were carrying on their religious ceremonies at specified times yet giving no thought to how they conducted themselves during the rest of the time. They were “religious” and ungodly at the same time.

The Book:

Micah lends itself to a three-section analysis. Each section begins with “Hear ye” and ends with a promise.

Chapters 1-2 announce the inevitable exile of Israel and Judah.

Chapters 3-5 then give a much more detailed promise of the reign of the Messiah.

Chapters 6-7 picture a court proceeding in which God prepares to be the prosecuting attorney against Israel.

Outline of Micah

- I. Judgment Against Israel and Judah (1:1-2:13)
 - A. Superscription (1:1)
 - B. These kingdoms to be punished (1:2-16)
 - 1. The Northern Kingdom (1:2-7)
 - 2. The Southern Kingdom (1:8-16)
 - C. The causes of judgment (2:1-11)
 - D. Restoration of the remnant promised (2:12-13)
- II. Present Humiliation and Future Glory (3:1-5:15)
 - A. The sins of the rulers (3:1-12)
 - B. The Messianic hope (4:1-5:15)
 - 1. Glory in the latter days (4:1-8)
 - 2. Exile and suffering to come before glory (4:9-5:1)
 - 3. The reign of the Messiah (5:2-15)
- III. A Call to Repentance (6:1-7:20)
 - A. God's case against the people (6:1-16)
 - B. The prophet's plea for Jerusalem (7:1-20)
 - 1. Bewailing the lack of righteousness (7:1-6)
 - 2. Confession of sin (7:7-17)
 - 3. Thanksgiving for mercy (7:18-20)

Lessons for Today

- 1. The text of Micah 5:2 guided the wise men to the birthplace of Jesus (Matthew 2:5-6).
- 2. If our worship is to be acceptable to God our worship and morality cannot be separated (6:1-8).
- 3. The kingdom of Zion is one of peace (4:1-5).