

## MICAH – LESSON SIX

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Micah was a younger contemporary prophet with Isaiah. While Isaiah views the times of Israel through the eyes of being a “man of the city,” Micah views Israel’s sins with the eyes of the humble peasant being a man of an “obscure country village” (cf. Eiselen, *The Prophetic Books of the O.T.*; Vol. II., p. 489).
2. Times of prosperity with God’s favor turn to times of destruction for those who do not know and fear God.
  - a. Jotham’s sixteen- year prosperous reign in God’s favor issues into Ahaz’s reign of sixteen years of evil idolatry and disfavor with God. With the Syro- Ephraimitic war, (735 B.C.) Pekah and Rezin threaten to dispose of Ahaz because he did not join them to revolt against Assyria. Damascus (Syria) and Samaria (Ephraim/ Israel - northern kingdom) would soon suffer destruction at the hands of Assyria culminating in the 722- 721 B.C. exile of Samaria into Assyrian captivity. Practical Ahaz ostensibly remains by paying tribute to Assyria.
  - b. In 711 B.C. the Philistine states revolt against Assyria and are put down ruthlessly by Sargon, the ruler of Assyria (Isa. 20).
  - c. Hezekiah revolts against Assyria in 701 B.C. when Sennacherib, the ruler of Assyria, heads west to collect his tribute of Judah’s king. The siege of Lachish was laid which and the city fell along with other Philistine villages. Sennacherib boasted of taking 46 of Hezekiah’s walled cities and that he shut up the King in Jerusalem “like a bird in a cage.”
  - d. Jerusalem was spared by God’s intervention, but villages, including Micah’s home territory, suffered devastation at the hands of Sennacherib.

### I. THE AUTHOR: Micah

- A. Micah’s name means “*Who is like the Lord?*”
  1. When the book ends, Micah will have given us the answer considering Israel’s future before our incomparable God (Micah 7:18-20).
- B. His home: “*Micah, the Morashtite*” (Micah 1:1)
  1. “*Moresheth-Gath*” – village near Gath and west of Jerusalem.
- C. His “prophetic” understanding (Micah 3:8)
  1. “*But as for me, ‘I am full of power by the Spirit of Jehovah, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.’*”
- D. His place among the prophets:
  1. Dallas Clay Baer in his book, “*The messages of the people to their day and ours,*” gives us a framework for viewing Micah’s work: “Someone has pointed out that Micah took the cardinal teachings of Amos, Hosea and Isaiah and bound them into one embracing statement which includes all. Amos stressed the need of justice. ‘Let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.’ Mercy as shown in the love of God was the great theme of Hosea, Isaiah pleaded for the people to have humble fellowship with God. Micah brings them

all together in a most striking declaration of what the Lord requires ‘to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God’” (p. 36).

**II. THE DATE: 740-700 B.C.**

- A. Date of Book about 735 B.C.
- B. Follows the prophetic work of Hosea (750 B.C.)
- C. Confirmed by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 26:18, Micah 3:12).

**III. THE SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE:**

- A. Greedy hearts design ways to use power to take homes away from families (2:1-2).
- B. The greedy in power rob the poor even of their needed garment (2:8).
- C. Women and their children are cast out of their homes (2:9)
- D. Nobles are likened to “cannibals,” and take bribes (3:3, 7:3).
- E. False prophets “divine” (using sorcery) for money (3:11).
- F. The Priests teach for hire (3:11).

**IV. KNOWING THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

- A. God is “Righteous” and therefore does “righteous acts” (6:1-5).  
s . He demands righteousness in the lives of His people (6:8,7:2).
- B. Holy God is “Judge” and will bring “Judgment” on His unrighteous people (1:2-3) .

**V. MESSIANIC PROMISES (Chapters 4-5)**

- A. Mountain of Jehovah’s house established (4:1)
- B. All people coming to house of God to be taught God’s Law and then walk in His ways (4:2).
- C. Shepherd/Ruler shall be born in Bethlehem (5:2).
- D. Eternal God’s rule is eternal with eternal blessings (4:5, 5:2,4).

**VI. OVERVIEW OF BOOK’S MOVEMENT**

- A. Judgment is near (1:1-3:12).
- B. Foreseen blessings of God’s remnant declared (4:1-5:15).
- C. Repentance is entreated (6:1-7:20).

**OUTLINE OF BOOK:**

**I. GOD’S JUDGMENT UPON SAMARIA AND JUDAH -SALVATION OF A REMNANT (1:1-2:13)**

- A. Judgment upon Samaria and Judah (1:16).
  - 1. Samaria’s strongholds destroyed (1:2-7)
  - 2. Lament of Judah’s destruction (1:8-16)
- B. Causes for eventual judgment (2:1-11)
  - 1. Arrogance and violence of the nobles
  - 2. False prophets who would silence the true prophet
- C. Future restoration of a remnant (2:12-13)

**II. CONTRAST BETWEEN DEVASTATION AND FUTURE EXALTATION (3:1-5:15).**

- A. The sins and crimes of the heads of the nation (3:1-12)
  - 1. Civil rulers – outrages committed (v.1-4)
  - 2. False prophets – mercenary practices condemned (5-8)
  - 3. Rulers, prophets, and priests – renewed condemnation
  - 4. Consequence: Jerusalem plowed as a field (3:12)
  
- B. The Messianic hope (4:1-5:15)
  - 1. The glory of the “latter days” (4:1-8)
    - a. glorification of Zion – center of universal religion of Jehovah (v. 4-5)
    - b. restoration of “the former dominion” – healing of the dispersed (v. 6-8)
  - 2. Distress and captivity before coming restoration (4:9- 5:1)
    - a. distress – Babylon before restoration (4:9-11)
    - b. deliverance of Zion and destruction of enemy – Jehovah’s purpose (4:11-5:1)
  
- C. The Messiah and the Messianic era (5:2-15)
  - 1. The Messiah will arise out of Bethlehem- He shall feed His flock (v.2-4).
  - 2. The Messiah to be the “peace” of His people (v. 5-6).
  - 3. The Messiah provides power to His people (v.7-9).
    - a. remnant to be as dews among the peoples (v.7)
    - b. remnant to be as a lion (v.8)
    - c. remnant to triumph over enemies (v.9)
  - 4. The Messiah’s strength and power will triumph (v.10-15).

**III. JEHOVAH AND ISRAEL IN CONTROVERSY (JUDICIAL CONTEST) – THE WAY TO SALVATION (6:1-7:20).**

- A. The case against Israel (6:1-14)
  - 1. Israel’s ingratitude for blessings bestowed (v. 1-5)
  - 2. Righteous conduct is God’s requirement not mere outward sacrifice (v. 6-8)
  - 3. Jehovah’s threat of judgment – denunciation of prevalent crimes (v.9-14)
  
- B. Penitential prayer and the Divine promise (7:1-20)
  - 1. Confession of the nation’s guilt (people or prophet speaking) (v.1-6)
  - 2. Confession of faith – prayer of the penitent (v. 7-13)
  - 3. Prayer for renewal of God’s grace (v. 14)
    - a. The Lord’s answer (v.15-17)
  - 4. Doxology – praise to Jehovah who alone is God! (v. 18-20)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. How does “the earth” react when the Lord “came down”?

2. What crime did Samaria commit?  
What was the consequence?
3. Why were the people of Israel to "*cut off their hair*"?
4. Who are those described in 2:1-2?
5. Who is telling the prophets not to prophecy in 2:6?
6. What principle should strengthen your heart regarding God's Truth, even when it is hard to take?
7. Where in the New Testament is the "remnant" of Micah 2:12 described?
8. How evil had Israel's "leaders" become?
9. Whom does God not hear when they cry out in prayer?  
What Biblical principle do you learn from 3:1-4?
10. Where in the Old Testament is the passage identical with Micah 4:1-3 found?  
Where is the New Testament passage revealing this Old Testament prophecy being fulfilled?
11. Whom will the Lord "*reign over in mount Zion*" ?  
When will this reign begin?
12. Where is Bethlehem Ephrathah located?  
Why is Bethlehem significant in history?
13. How does Jesus fulfill Micah 5:1-5 perfectly?
14. What power is behind the remnant overcoming all adversaries?

15. What was the Lord going to remove that compete for man's worship that only belongs to God?
16. What does the Lord remind His people of in Micah 6:4-5?  
Why does God offer these reminders?
17. What is God teaching us through Micah when He says "*The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul*" in Micah 6:7?
18. What does the Lord require of man in Micah 6:8?  
Explain each part of God's answer:
19. What were the "*statutes of Omri*" (6:16)?
20. Why does the Lord say, "*Do not trust in a friend*" (7:5)?
21. Is there life after the darkness of sin and repentance?
22. What "*day*" is spoken of in Micah 7:11-17?  
What comparison is being conveyed?
23. What *two characteristics* of God's grace does Micah leave us with as he closes his prophetic Book?