

MICAH

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Introduction:

Micah prophesied in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (about 750–700 B.C.), at about the same time as Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, and Micah denounced the wealthy, who were oppressing the poor, and warned of impending judgment. The northern kingdom actually fell during Micah's ministry, in 722, and Judah almost fell in 701 (2 Kings 18–20). The book contains three sections, which alternate between words of warning and messages of hope. Micah told of a day when there would be peace among all nations, who would then be able to “beat their swords into plowshares” (4:3), and of a royal deliverer who would save God's people from all her enemies. This deliverer would be born in Bethlehem (5:2).

OUTLINE OF MICAH

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|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| I. The Prediction of Judgment | 1:1–3:12 | Punishment (1-3) |
| A. Introduction to the Book of Micah | 1:1 | |
| B. The Judgment on the People | 1:2–2:13 | |
| C. The Judgment on the Leadership | 3:1–12 | |
| II. The Prediction of Restoration | 4:1–5:15 | Promise (4-5) |
| A. The Promise of the Coming Kingdom | 4:1–5 | |
| B. The Promise of the Coming Captivities | 4:6–5:1 | |
| C. The Promise of the Coming King | 5:2–15 | |
| III. The Plea for Repentance | 6:1–7:20 | Pardon (6-8) |
| A. The First Plea of God | 6:1–9 | |
| B. The Second Plea of God | 6:10–7:6 | |
| C. The Promise of Final Salvation | 7:7–20 | |

Micah Prophecies Destruction c. 740 B.C.

Micah foretold the destruction that awaited Jerusalem and the towns that guarded the approach to the city. Though these towns lay to the southwest of Jerusalem, they lay along the route normally traveled by invading forces from the north, who typically followed the Great Trunk Road south until they reached Gath.



Mega Themes

- 1.** The character of the sovereign Lord and the sins of his people demand judgment (1:2–5; 2:3; 6:1–2, 9–11). The sentence of God's "lawsuit" comes in the form of an oppressor (1:15; 4:11; 5:1, 5–6) and by means of covenant curses (6:13–15) rendered for covenant unfaithfulness (6:16).
- 2.** A Shepherd-King gathers and delivers a remnant (2:12–13; 4:6–8; 7:14, 18). This deliverer, functioning as a new David, will come from the very region under Assyrian control (5:2–5a).
- 3.** Covenant faithfulness consists not merely in ritual but in the proper expression of the primary forms of love: justice, mercy, and faithfulness (6:8; cf. Matt. 23:23).
- 4.** The Lord is the focus of worship. The nations will no longer "flow" to false gods (cf. Jer. 51:44) but to Zion to learn of the true Lord and to live in peace (Mic. 4:1–5; 7:12; cf. Isa. 2:2–5).
- 5.** The liberating light of grace flowing from the Lord's steadfast love (Mic. 7:18–20) overcomes the ominous sentence due to sin (7:8–9). Forgiveness is grounded in God's faithfulness to his promises (7:20).
- 6.** God's saving acts in the past (6:4–5; 7:14–15) are interpretative analogies for his saving acts in the future (7:19–20).

Justification Defined ...

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
Romans 3:21–26

The Doctrine of Justification:

Justification is the gracious act of God by which He declares a sinner righteous only through faith in Jesus.

The gracious act of God ...

*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
Psalm 130:3*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
Psalm 143:1-2*

☐ • **God gives faith.**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...
Ephesians 2:8*

☐ • **God grants justification.**

*And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
Romans 8:30*

By which He declares ...

*And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
1 Corinthians 6:11*

*Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.
Exodus 23:7*

A sinner ...

- ☐. The sinfulness of man.
- ☐. The righteousness of God.
- ☐. The demands of the law.
- ☐ •

The result:

- ☐. We are condemned by our **actions** that break God's law.
*For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.
James 2:10*
- ☐. We are condemned by our **attempts** to keep God's law.
For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

“Even our tears of repentance need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb.”
Puritan Pastor

Righteous ...

*For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so
 by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.*
Romans 5:19

God declares that we are forgiven of sin.

- Propitiation: We are free from all guilt.
- Imputation: We are credited with His righteousness.
*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that
 in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
2 Corinthians 5:21

Only through faith in Jesus.

*... yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in
 Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in
 Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*
Galatians 2:16

From Secret Church Notes by David Platt

Micah 7:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise;
 when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. ⁹
 I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him,
 until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me.
 He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.
 “I will see his righteousness.” (NAS)

Ephesians 2:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ
 —by grace you have been saved.

“Remembrance of my sin is grievous, the burden of them is intolerable... but you—may your
 grace make me rise, your advocacy give me confidence.”
Book of Common Prayer

APPLICATION

Micah is an amazing book of prophecy. The basic outline of the book can be summarized in three words... judgment, salvation, repent. The first three chapters address the theme of judgment. The people and their leaders have failed God as they have committed idolatry--greed, oppression, and violence are all going on. God will judge this swiftly.

But a big shift in chapters 4-5 bring a great promise: a remnant will be preserved under the rule of God's King to come, the Messiah--who will lead his people as the Shepherd-King and make them a light to the peoples of the world.

The final two chapters show the response that God desires--a turning back to him from sin. Micah exhorts God's people to turn to him--not with more sacrifices, but with true repentance that leads to a change of heart and actions. It is God who, in 7:18, delights in, "pardoning sins and passing over iniquities!" Today the same message is clear through Christ--there is forgiveness based on his work on the cross.

This Easter Sunday, we celebrate that the same power that raised Christ from the cross is the same power that has forgiven us, is making us more like Christ, and has reserved a place for us in his future kingdom!

Personal Prayer Time

Sources Consulted and Cited:

ESV Study Bible Notes

One to One by David Helm

Secret Church notes by David Platt

Nelson's Complete Book of Charts and Maps