

# The Minor Prophets - Micah

- Introduction
  - Micah (מִיכָהּ miy-kah) is a shortened form of Micaiah (מִיכַיָּהּ miy-kayah) which means “Who is like YHWH?”.
  - There are nine men in the O.T. with this name.
  - Micah was born in Moresheth, a village in the Judean foothills.
  - Micah was written in the 8th century B.C. as shown by the kings mentioned in verse one.
  - Hosea and Isaiah were contemporaries of Micah.
  - Micah quoted Isaiah (or maybe it was the other way around) in an important passage [Mic 4:1-3 || Isa 2:2-4].
  - Jeremiah refers to Micah as a prophet during the days of King Hezekiah [Jer 26:18].
- Observations from the Text
  - Micah relays a vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem [1:1].
    - Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Jerusalem was the capital of the Southern Kingdom (Judah).
    - These cities represent all of the Jewish people.
    - The Northern Kingdom had long been disobedient to the Mosaic covenant and the Southern Kingdom was acting just as rebellious.
  - God’s judgment of Samaria and Jerusalem would be for all the world to see [1:2-7].
    - All the people of the earth were asked to hear [1:2].
    - The impending judgment is described [1:3-4].
    - The reason for the judgment is given [1:5].
    - Samaria would be utterly destroyed [1:6-7].
    - This was fulfilled in 722 B.C. when the Assyrian army captured the city [2 Kings 17:1-5].
  - Micah was so distraught that in his lament he went barefoot and naked [1:8].
    - Isaiah also went barefoot and naked in his prophetic ministry [Isa 20:2-3].
    - Micah felt as desolate as the jackals which are loners and nighttime scavengers.
    - Micah would mourn like the ostriches which have a distinctive mournful cry.
  - Judah would be judged as well [1:9].
  - Micah uses clever wordplay to describe the destruction of cities in Judah [1:10-16].
    - “Tell it not in Gath” is a takeoff of 1 Sam 1:20, but here Micah does not want the people in Gath to know about the coming attack or weep because of Judah’s desolations [1:10].
    - The people of the city of Beth-le-aphrah (house of dust) are told to roll in the dust as an outward expression of their grief [1:10].
    - The inhabitants of Shaphir (pleasant) are told that they will be taken away as prisoners, a very unpleasant experience [1:11].

- The inhabitants of Zaanan (come out) would not go out (escape) from the judgment to come [1:11].
- The people of Beth-ezel (house of removal) will lament because God will remove these cities [1:11].
- The inhabitants of Maroth (bitterness) are waiting for good, but will suffer a bitter ordeal [1:12].
- Lachish, known for its horses, was told to hitch a chariot to the horses to escape [1:13].
- Parting gifts (that of a father at the wedding of his daughter) would be given to Moresheth-gath (betrothal of Gath) [1:14].
- The houses of Achzib (deceit) become a deception (unreliable) to the kings of Judah [1:14].
- The inhabitants of Mareshah (inheritance) would pass into the hands of the heir (by conquest) [1:15].
- The leaders of Israel would become refugees in Adullam (refuge) [1:15].
- The children of Judah would be taken into exile which would cause the people to shave their heads in mourning and look like the eagle [1:16].
- The people were involved in evil 24/7 so God had calamity in store for them [2:1-5].
- The people had rejected truth for lies [2:6-11].
- Even in the midst of such apostasy, there is a remnant that God will protect [2:12-13].
- The prophets, priests and kings of Israel are all corrupt, so they face judgment from the Prophet-Priest-King Himself [3:1-12].
  - When the false prophets realized God was punishing Israel, it was too late for prayer [3:4].
  - The temple mount would be left in ruins [3:12].
- The ruined temple mount will one day be exalted [4:1-13 cf. Isa 2:2-4].
  - The Chief of the Mountains raised up above the hills describes the Millennial reign of Christ [4:1].
  - The people will come to the Lord for Bible teaching and wise judgment [4:2-3].
  - There will be no more need for war [4:3-5].
  - The lame and outcasts will be exalted [4:6-8].
  - The agony of the people will be replaced by national blessing [4:9-13].
- Micah describes the coming King [5:2-15].
  - The birthplace of the eternal Son will be Bethlehem Ephrathah [5:2; Matt 2:6 cf. Isa 9:6].
  - The coming King will be a Shepherd [5:4-5a cf. Isa 40:11].
  - The “Assyrian” (Antichrist) will rise up and be put down by Christ [5:5b-6].
  - The remnant of Israel will be like lions [5:6-9].
  - The Lord will root out idolatry and evil from among Israel and the nations [5:10-15].
- A “Hear now” message brings the context back to the current indictment the Lord has against His people Israel [6:1-5, 9-16].

- In the midst of this message, Micah addresses how a holy God can be approached [6:6-8].
  - We must act according to God's absolute standard of justice.
  - We must reflect God's lovingkindness.
  - We must walk humbly before God [Isa 66:2].
- For the righteous man, walking in the midst of apostate people is unpleasant [7:1-6].
- Dwelling on God's promises for now and the future is spiritually profitable [7:7-13].
- The Lord will rule with a scepter and dispense justice, truth and love in the Millennial Kingdom [7:14-20].
- In the Fullness of the Times, sin will no longer be found.
  - Cast into the depths of the sea [7:19].
  - Sealed in a bag [Job 14:17].
  - Behind God's back [Isa 38:17].
  - As far as the east is from the west [Ps 103:12].
  - Not remembered [Isa 43:25; Jer 31:34].
  - Cannot be found [Jer 50:20].
- Applications for Today
  - All nations of the earth are affected by the spiritual failures of Israel.
  - Worldly thinking exalts those who have a false message of prosperity.
  - Rejecting God's purpose for human institutions and perverting such institutions is a recipe for divine judgment.
  - The pacifists' dream of eliminating war and the weapons of war will not be realized until the Millennial Kingdom.
  - The Baby born in Bethlehem is this world's only hope, but world peace cannot come until after God roots out Israel's idolatry – bringing about their repentance – and executes vengeance on the rebellious nations.