

The Book of Micah

Background

- **Micah prophesied in Judah.**
- **Pointed out her sins and told of a coming judgment.**
- **Gave special emphasis to the spiritual kingdom which was to come under the Messiah.**
- **Came from a small village 22 miles from Jerusalem.**
- **The name *Micah* means “*Who is Like the Lord.*”**
- **Prophesied between 735 and 700 B.C.**

Background

- Under king Uzziah, Judah enjoyed great prosperity.
- Wealth brought in great wickedness.
- The difference between Judah and Israel—Judah had some good kings.
- Jotham followed Uzziah; then came wicked Ahaz.
- Hezekiah was one of Judah's most righteous king.
- Assyria had begun to invade Judah.
- In 722 B.C., Assyria took the Northern kingdom into captivity.

Background

- **Micah's closing section is like a courtroom scene.**
- **God was having a controversy with His people.**
- **Calls the mountains and hills to form a jury.**
- **The people had replaced heartfelt worship with empty rituals.**
- **They failed to understand what God required of them.**
- **God's verdict? GUILTY AS CHARGED!**

Keys to the Book of Micah

- **Key words**
 - Hear, judgment, and restoration
- **Key phrase**
 - “This time is evil”
- **Key chapters: 6,7**
- **Key verses: 6:8**

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Keys to the Book of Micah

- Micah foresees the repentance of the Jews after their captivity in Babylon.
- Also the coming of Christ's kingdom.

“He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.” (7:19,20)

Theme

- **Micah prophesied to both Israel and Judah.**
- **Foretold their punishment.**
- **Shows that God hates evil but delights in pardoning the penitent.**
- **All men need humility and repentance.**
- **Ultimate triumph of truth and right.**
- **God's pleading, punishing, and pardoning.**

Main Divisions

- **God summons the people to hear (chapter 1)**
- **Declares impending judgment (chapter 2)**
- **Summons the leaders to hear (chapter 3)**
- **Restoration of the remnant (chapter 4)**
- **Triumph of ruler from Bethlehem (chapter 5)**
- **Summons mountains to hear (chapter 6)**
- **God's controversy with His people (chapter 7)**

The Book's Message

- **The Messianic hope** (chapters 4,5)
- **Looks beyond the destruction of the city and temple to the building of an enduring kingdom to come**
- **In the “Last (or Latter) Days”**
- **Would be greater than all other kingdoms**
- **Find peace and security in Him**
- **Not be an earthly kingdom, but spiritual**
 - 4:1-7; 9-13

Passages Fulfilled in NT

- **The law of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem.**
– Acts 2
- **The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.**
– Matthew 2:6; John 7:42
- **A man's enemies shall be part of his own household.**
– Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:53
- **Christ's righteous reign over all the earth.**
– Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:29-36

Lessons for Us

- **Micah stresses God's righteousness.**
– (7:18-20)
- **Wickedness must be punished.**
– (2:1-3)
- **We must walk “humbly” and do “justice.”**
– (6:8)
- **Foretold long ago, the coming of Christ!**
– (5:2)