

Micah: The prophet of ‘justice for the poor’ Minor Prophets Nov. 12 and 19, 2023

Main point: judgment for covenant-breakers who hurt the poor was followed by restoration.

Summary of the Book of Micah:

Our sixth minor prophet ‘God-theater’ presentation of ‘Micah’ is a series of judgments against social injustice. There were the ever-present sins of idolatry and deceit. But Micah especially condemned those who oppress the poor by seizing their land. Though the people had been disobedient to the covenant, God remained faithful. So, for God to be consistent, He must apply to the covenant-breakers the covenant curses. Predictably, we find our mini-theater theme of ‘judgment unto restoration,’ when Micah wrote of a future time of restoration for sinners! Since God was faithful in the past (to His promises to Abraham), God will also be faithful in the future (to raise up a ruler out of Bethlehem) (5:2). God’s restoration depends not on man’s efforts, but solely on His mercy, His forgiveness, and His sovereign intervention.

Well-known quotes, embedded in Micah:

“...*the mountain of the house of the Lord...shall be lifted up above the hills...*” (4:1)

“...*they shall beat their swords into plowshares...spears into pruning hooks...*” (4:3)

“...*you, Bethlehem...from you shall come forth...a ruler in Israel*” (5:2)

“...*LORD require...do justice, to love kindness...to walk humbly with your God?*” (6:8)

“...*who is a God like You...will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*” (7:19)

The man Micah and the times when he was speaking and writing:

- His name: Micah is a shortened version of Micaiah = “*Who is like The LORD?*”
- His resume: a lot of info is contained in the first sentence. (1:1)
- His status: an outsider from Moresheth, a village 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem
- His audience: both Judah, the southern kingdom, and Israel the northern kingdom.
- His dates: 750-700 BC. Reigns of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Outline of Micah:

Micah 1:2, “SHEMA!” (a Hebrew word meaning to hear, to listen, or to heed!)

Micah 1:2-7, since God was willing to judge His own nation, He will judge all nations.

Micah 1:8-16, a stylized warning against the nation about coming exile!

Micah 2:1-13, rich scammers rip off the poor, and are judged by God.

Micah 3:1-12, justice was absent from all parts of life in Jerusalem.

Micah 4:1-5, people need the teaching of God’s Word how to walk in God’s ways.

Micah 4:6-13, poems about the future hope of Israel and the nations

Micah 5:1-15, A new king will rule, and the remnant will bless the nations

Micah 6:1-16, God again confronted unjust financial dealings

Micah 7:1-20, God’s famous requirement: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

3 Rounds of fulfillments of Micah’s prophecies:

1) returning from Babylon and rebuilding the second temple

2) Christ who had arisen from the dead then ascending into the heavenly sanctuary

3) in the future new heavens and new earth, the kings of the earth bring their splendor into the new Jerusalem that “*comes down out of heaven.*” Revelation 21:1,10, 22-27