



1

Micah | Critical & Historical Information

- Micah was a younger contemporary of Isaiah in the South, along with Amos and Hosea in the North. Although his prophecy clearly includes Israel (i.e., the northern Kingdom), the introductory superscription lists only Southern kings (ca. 640-690), perhaps indicating that his ministry was in the South, or that he didn't recognize the kings in the North as true kings.
- Micah hailed from Moresheth, a small town about 20-25 miles southwest of Jerusalem near the fortress town of Lachish. Aside from a name meaning "who is like Yahweh," little else is known about Micah's background.
- A century later, Micah's prophetic legacy was very much alive and well as evidenced by the elders of the land who appeal to his prophecy (Mic. 3:12) to justify sparing the life of Jeremiah (Jer.26:17-19).

2

Micah Cont...

- **Main Themes**
 - Covenant—obligation and blessing
 - The importance of love and holiness (Mic. 6:8)
 - The danger of false prophets
 - The hope of final restoration
- **Role in the Twelve**
 - Micah summarizes the Twelve up until this point and ends the "sin" section. The only way things could get worse is total annihilation and judgment—the subject of Nahum and Habakkuk
- **Textual Connection to the New Testament**
 - The chief priests and elders quote Micah 5:2 to Herod when he inquires of them about the birthplace of the Messiah in Matt. 2:1-6.
 - Though not quoted, Micah 7:6 is likely in the background of Matt. 10:34-36

3

Application in Light of Christ

- Obedience in the covenant—faith *that works*
 - o Justice
- Christ, the ruler and vindicator
- A purified remnant

4

Nahum – Historical & Critical Info

- As a non-standard prophet, Nahum prophecies against Nineveh—the capital of Assyria—after the destruction of the northern kingdom (722/721 BC). Though the book has no superscription, it clearly post-dates the destruction of Thebes (3:8-10) in 663 BC but almost certainly came before the waning of Assyrian military strength following the death of Ashurbanipal (626 BC).
 - o Nineveh was annihilated by the Babylonians in 612 BC at the Battle of Nineveh.
- Nahum, whose name means “comfort,” uses biting taunts and sarcasm, brief, staccato-style phrasing and Assyrian themes to condemn Nineveh to help the reader to *feel* the angst and tension of the annihilation that is coming.
 - o Think of chapters 2-3 as snapshots/zoom-ins of the Battle of Helm Deep (i.e., Nineveh).
- Chapters 2-3 form a large chiasm, with 3:1-4 at the center (the most emphasized element). Furthermore, the whole section is located within an *inclusio* (1:15; 3:18-19).

5

Chap 2-3 Chiasm

- o Call to Celebrate (1:15) (2:1 in Hebrew)
 - The Prophet's Vision (2:1-10)
 - The Prophet's Taunt (2:11-12)
 - The Declaration of Yahweh (2:13)
 - ❖ Woe Oracle (3:1-4)
 - The Declaration of Yahweh (3:5-7)
 - The Prophet's Taunt (3:8-13)
 - The Prophet's Vision (3:14-17)
- o Call to Celebrate (3:18-19)

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