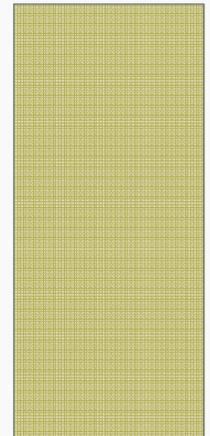


# MICAH

## OVERVIEW



## ACCORDING TO MICAH 1:1:

- Micah spoke “the word of the LORD.”
- From Moresheth Gath (see also 1:14), about 25 miles s.w. of Jerusalem, on the border of Judah and Philistia.
- Prophesied to both Israel and Judah (“Samaria and Jerusalem”) during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
- Prophesied then in the 740-700 B.C. range, making him a contemporary of Isaiah, who started earlier.

# THE KINGS

- Jotham and Hezekiah were good kings.
- Ahaz was very evil.
  - Allied himself with the Assyrian king, politically and religiously.
  - “Burned his children in the fire” (2 Chron. 28:3).
  - Ordered Urijah the priest to build an altar patterned after an Assyrian altar (2 Kings 16:10ff).

## ISRAEL NEAR ITS END

- When Micah began prophesying, the end was near for the northern kingdom.
- Assyria had already conquered much of the northern area of the kingdom, and when Hoshea stopped paying tribute to them, that was the final straw. They were taken into captivity around 722/721 B.C.

# OUTLINE, OTHER REFERENCES

- Book divides into 3 sections, each beginning with the admonition to hear (1:2; 3:1; 6:1). Each section contains messages of both judgment AND hope.
- Passages in Micah cited in the New Testament:
  - Micah 5:2: Matthew 2:6; John 7:42.
  - Micah 7:6: Matthew 10:35-36.
  - Micah 7:20: Luke 1:72-73.
- One passage from Micah is later cited in Jeremiah's day: Micah 3:12 is used in Jeremiah 26:16-19.

## PASSAGES TO REMEMBER

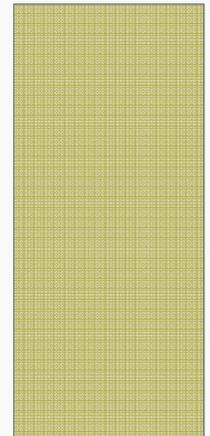
- 1:8-9: Degree to which Micah was affected by the sin of his people (“I will wail and howl...”).
- 3:1-2: Conditions such that some had come to “hate good and love evil.”
- 3:11: Describes how deeply some can be involved in sin, yet still think that the Lord is among them.
- 4:1-8: A wonderful figurative description of the Messiah’s reign over His kingdom, a marked contrast from the rulers of that day.

## PASSAGES TO REMEMBER

- 4:10: Speaks of Babylon as Judah's enemy, as a place of captivity, and then of deliverance. Babylon was no threat at this time—Assyria was the world power.
- 5:2: A prophecy that pinpoints the location of the Savior's birth.
- 6:8: A good summary of the Lord's requirements ("do justly...love mercy...walk humbly with your God").
- 7:18-19: Describes the Lord's eagerness to **forgive** ("delights in mercy") and **forget** ("cast all our sins into the depths of the sea").

# MICAH

CHAPTERS 1-3



# KEY THOUGHTS

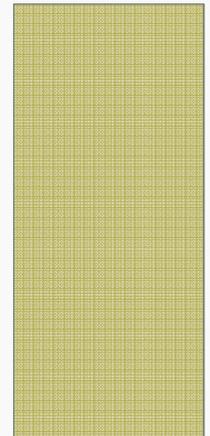
- You know you're in trouble when God is called as a witness against you (1:2-5).
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity (1:8-9).
- God employs many figures of speech, including...
  - Puns (1:10-15).
- The Lord hates “a heart that devises wicked plans” (Prov. 6:18; 2:1-2).

## KEY THOUGHTS

- “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal. 6:7; 2:2-5).
- You know you’re headed down the wrong road when you just want teachers who will tickle your ears (2:6-7, 11; 3:5-7).
- Self-serving leaders are an abomination to God (3:11).
- “Is it not for you to know justice?” (3:1-4; 2:8-9).

# MICAH

CHAPTERS 4-7



# THE LORD'S CASE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE

- "Listen, you mountains, to the **indictment** of the LORD, And you enduring foundations of the earth, Because the LORD has a **case** against His people; Even with Israel He will dispute (6:2, NASV).



# THE CHARGES

- Sorcery, soothsaying, idolatry (5:12-15; 6:16).
- Dishonest gain (6:9-12).
  - “Dishonest gain” used in Titus 1:11; 1 Peter 5:2.
- “The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men” (7:2-7).
  - Hard to find anyone you could trust.

# THE SENTENCE (“HEAR THE ROD”)

- “I will...cut off...throw down...pluck” (5:11-14).
- “I will execute vengeance in anger and fury...” (5:15).
- “I will also make you sick...desolate...hunger shall be in your midst...what you do rescue I will give over to the sword...you shall sow, but not reap...” (6:13-16).
- “And to Babylon you shall go...” (4:10).

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE (7:7-10)

- “In the latter days” (4:1, contrast with 3:12)—points to N.T. times, to the Messianic age (Acts 2:17; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:5, 20; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 1:18).
- The transition to the “latter days”:
  - Captivity would bring great pain to God’s people, like a woman in labor (4:9-10).
  - A physical remnant would emerge from this captivity (4:10).
  - This remnant would give birth to the Savior, to the King (5:2-4).

# THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

- “So the Lord will reign over them in Mt. Zion from now on, even forever” (4:7).
- Under Christ, the “former dominion” would be restored (4:8), the fulfillment of what was “sworn to our fathers from days of old (7:20).
- Luke 1:31-33, 67-75.

# SPIRITUAL REMNANT

- Composed of people from many nations (4:2; 7:11-12).
- Composed of the lame, the outcast, those whom God had afflicted (4:6-7).
- “Like dew from the Lord, like showers on the grass,” but also “like a lion among the beasts of the forests, like a young lion among flocks of sheep” (5:7-8).
- They will worship the Lord alone, and walk in His paths (4:2, 5; 5:10-15).
- They will experience many blessings, such as peace, prosperity, and forgiveness (4:3-4; 7:14, 18-19).