

Bible Study Notes and Questions on the Book of Micah

Overview: Micah came from a country town called Moresheth-gath (**1:1,14**) near the south western border of Judah. His name means “Who is like unto Jehovah?” or “Who is like this?” He was a contemporary of Isaiah, but from a poorer background compared to Isaiah coming from a wealthy background living in Jerusalem. Micah had a deep concern for the ordinary people where many were being exploited. Isaiah may not have been so conscious of this but his influence can be seen in high places especially in his ministry to Hezekiah king of Judah. Hosea and Amos were also contemporaries of Micah. Micah’s prophetic ministry began to take place during the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah kings of Judah from about 740 BC to about 687 to 686BC. His message came to both Israel and Judah.

In the eighth century BC Israel and Judah had become wealthy but society was becoming divided because of greed amongst rich people who were materialistic, living in luxury and showing oppression to the poor with many of them devoured of their substance being made destitute to the point of starvation and death. There was much idolatry, covetousness, injustice and contempt of the word of God. There was corruption amongst the leadership, the priests and the false prophets, who were held responsible by God for the spiritual decay in Israel and Judah. Judgment was inevitable leading to the northern kingdom of Israel being overrun by Assyria in 722-721BC. The capital city of Samaria became a heap of ruins. Much of Judah was invaded by Assyria by 701BC but Jerusalem was saved.

However, there is much encouragement in the prophecy of Micah especially in **Chapter 4** where the coming millennial Messianic kingdom has been foretold when Jesus Christ will reign over the whole earth. At the beginning of **Chapter 5** the birth of Jesus Christ has also been foretold “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth to me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*” (**5:2 & Matthew 2:1-6**). There is further evidence of Israel being restored in this chapter.

Chapter 6 has shown what God has done for Israel and what he requires of his people (**6:6-8**). He has also shown his displeasure because of much sin in Israel which will lead to destruction. The spiritual decay of Israel is described further in **7:1-6**. However, there is further encouragement of restoration of Israel still to come to pass in the future in the final verses of the book (**7:7-20**). Whilst much judgment has been foretold in this book, there is the message of mercy and hope.

The short prophetic books from Hosea to Malachi have been known as the “minor prophets”. This author believes this is a misnomer because the messages they received from God have the same authority as that of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. As seen above, the prophecy of the Messiah has been heard read in carol services every year. There is a reference to Micah’s prophecy in **Jeremiah 26:18 (3:12)** which saved Jeremiah’s life. May there be blessing for those who study this book to see its vital contribution to scripture.

Questions

- Q.1)** What judgments has God revealed to Micah in **1:1-5** which were applicable to the northern kingdom of Israel and also to the southern kingdom of Judah.
- Q.2)** What was foretold to happen to Samaria capital of the northern kingdom of Israel?
See **1:6-9**.
- Q.3)** How were cities in Judah being affected by sin? See **1:10-16**. Show the evidence of God's judgment on these cities.
- Q.4)** Read **2:1-11**. Show the sins of the wealthy and powerful people. How were communities affected? How did God rebuke such wickedness?
- Q.5)** Read carefully **2:12-13**. Is there evidence of restoration?
- Q.6)** Why were the heads, princes, priests and prophets denounced sharply by the Lord? Read **3:1-12**. If you can, say specifically what each group of people were doing that was so grieving to God.
- Q.7)** Read **4:1-8** and see also **Isaiah 2:1-4**. Show the evidence that this chapter has revealed the coming millennial kingdom. What has God done to restore his people to their land? How will God's people live in the millennium?
- Q.8)** How will Israel suffer in **4:9-12**?
- Q.9)** Show the evidence of Israel being victorious in **4:13**.
- Q.10)** Read **Chapter 5**. A) Show the promise of the Messiah coming. See **5:2** and also **Matthew 2:1-6**. B) Show the evidence of God at work leading to Israel having victory over her enemies. See **5:1, 3-6**. C) What will happen to Israel's enemies in **5:7-9, 15**? D) What ways will God's people be purged in **5:10-14**?
- Q.11)** Show how God pleaded with his people Israel to repent reminding them of what he has done for them. Read **6:1-5**.
- Q.12)** What has God required of his people Israel in **6:6-8**?
- Q.13)** Show the wickedness of God's people Israel and the judgments God has to bring upon them. Read **6:9-16**.
- Q.14)** Read **7:1-6**. Describe the depravity of Israel in these verses.
- Q.15)** Is it true to say that **7:7-10** shows a repentant remnant of Israel that have looked to God for deliverance?
- Q.16)** Read **7:11-20**. Show the evidence of future blessings to Israel and the nations in a coming millennium (1000 years) when Jesus Christ will rule over Israel and the whole earth.

Miscellaneous Questions

- Q.1)** Read the entire book and consider carefully who God is? The following references whilst not complete will be helpful. See **1:3; 3:8; 4:7; 5:2; 6:6-8; 7:7-9, 18-20**.
- Q.2)** Show any prophecies that have been fulfilled in this book and any prophecies still to come to pass. See for example: **1:2-7; 2:12-13; 3:12; 4:1-8** (compare **Isaiah 2:1-4**); **5:1-3** (compare **Matthew 2:1-6**); **7:16-20**
- Q.3)** What important lessons does the book of Micah teach us for our own day?
- Q.4)** Read carefully through this book and try to find any key words. Are there any spiritual lessons we can learn from these key words in this prophecy? The following are examples such as "mercy" (**6:8, 8:18, 20**), "word" (**1:1, 4:2**) and "remnant" (**2:12; 4:7; 5:3, 7, 8; 7:18**).

Bibliography

The list of resources available will be helpful in studying the scriptures. The author may not necessarily agree with all the views of the writers of the reading material.

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