

THE BOOK OF MICAH – MICAH 6:6-8

INTRODUCTION

1. What do you think about the injustice that is taking place in the lives of so many people?
2. If you are a Christian, you should be moved to do something about it.
3. Let's consider the book of Micah and be reminded about how God wants His people to live out their faith in Him and bring Him glory by loving and serving others.

DISCUSSION

I. THE LIFE & TIMES OF MICAH

- A. What do we know about the prophet Micah and his ministry?
- B. His name in Hebrew means "Who is like Yahweh?" and is actually a shortened form of the name Micaiah (**Micah 1:1; 7:18; cp. 1 Kings 22:8**).
- C. In the opening verse, we are told his name and also his hometown, Moresheth.
 - i. Moresheth was a Judean city about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem and about 20 miles from the coast of the Mediterranean Ocean.
 - ii. It was close to the Philistine city of Gath (**Micah 1:14**).
- D. We also learn in the opening verse the timeframe of Micah's ministry.
 - i. He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
 - ii. These men reigned over Judah in the 8th century B.C.
 - iii. This means that Micah was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea.
 - iv. This also means that Micah prophesied during a time of great political and social upheaval where one good king was followed by an evil one in Judah (**2 Kings 15:32-34; 2 Kings 16:1-4; 18:1-7**).
- E. Micah is one of the few writing prophets mentioned in another book of the Old Testament (**Jer. 26:18**).
 - i. Jeremiah's life was threatened when he predicted Jerusalem's fall.
 - ii. But some of the elders of the people interceded on his behalf, reminding the king and the people that Micah had said the same thing almost a hundred years before (**Micah 3:12**).
- F. During his lifetime, the northern kingdoms of Israel would fall to Assyria, and Judah almost suffered the same fate (**2 Kings 17-20**).
- G. While Micah does mention the external threats to the people of God, his words are more focused on the moral and religious state of Israel (**Mic. 1:7; 2:1-2; 3:11**).
- H. As with other prophets of this era, through Micah God condemns His people's idolatry and their abuse of their prosperity and their lack of love for one another.

II. MICAH'S MESSAGE TO ISRAEL & JUDAH

- A. Micah's message is a call to Israel to repent and worship God in sincerity and in truth and serve Him in love and faithfulness.
- B. The major themes in the book are judgment and restoration.

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- C. The book of Micah can be broken down into three major sections, each of which calls on the reader to hear the word of Yahweh (**Mic. 1:2; 3:1; 6:1**).
- D. The first section is about God's judgment on Israel and Judah (**Mic. 1:1-2:13**).
 - i. He is coming in judgment against the leaders and the prophets of Israel who have made themselves rich through greed and theft (**Mic. 2:1-11**).
 - ii. Yet, God promises that one day He will come and shepherd the remnant of His people that have remained faithful (**Mic. 2:12-13**).
- E. The second section is a contrast between the ungodly leaders of Jerusalem and the Messiah and His kingdom (**Mic. 3:1-5:15**).
 - i. Again, God condemns the exploitation of the poor by the leaders and false prophets among His people (**3:1-7, 9-12**).
 - ii. Yet, God promises that the New Jerusalem is coming, and the Messianic Kingdom is coming, bringing peace not only for the remnant but all nations (**Mic. 4:1-7; 5:7-14**).
- F. The third and final section includes an accusation against Israel and a final promise of hope and salvation (**Mic. 6:1-7:20**).
 - i. Instead of exploiting one another, God calls for justice and mercy (**Mic. 6:6-8**).
 - ii. He reminds the people about the goodness and severity of His character (**Mic. 6:3-5, 9-16**).
- G. The book closes with a reminder that there is hope of restoration and forgiveness only because God is faithful to keep His promises (**Mic. 7:18-20**).

III. MICAH'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY

- A. Micah's message was meant for more than just the people of his day or even the exiles who returned from captivity to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.
- B. When the wise men came from the east looking for the King of the Jews, it was Micah who had revealed where the Messiah would be born (**Matt. 2:1-12; Mic. 5:2**).
- C. And as Micah said, it was through Jesus, the Messiah, that the promises to Abraham to bless all nations came to pass (**Mic. 4:1-3; Isa. 2:1-4; Gen. 12:3; Eph. 3:1-6**).
- D. Those of us who are in Christ should reflect on the issues that brought about God's judgment in Micah's day and examine ourselves.
- E. Is our worship confined to rituals that begin and end at the door of the meeting place while we live out our lives in selfish pursuits (**Mic. 3:1-12; Titus 3:3**)?
- F. Or does our love for God lead to a life that is spent in serving God and others in justice, mercy, and humility like Jesus (**Mic. 6:8; John 13:34-35; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 5:13-16**)?

CONCLUSION

- 1. There are many today who claim to serve God, but are really only serving themselves.
- 2. Micah reminds us about who God expects His people to be (**Mic. 6:8**).
- 3. May his words persuade us to walk in the name of our God as Jesus did (**2 Cor. 5:15; Mic. 4:5**).