

MICAH: CALL FOR JUSTICE

A. Author: Micah

B. Title: Named after the Prophet; means “Who Is Like Yahweh?”

C. Theme: God insists that His people must reflect His holy character in the way that they live. Outward religious activities cannot replace deficient character.

D. History:

750-686 B.C.: Preached to Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Was a contemporary of Isaiah, though Micah was the polar opposite of him.

- Isaiah was from the nobility, Micah was from the farming class.
- Isaiah was called in the temple, Micah was called by viewing oppression of the people.

E. Outline:

1. THE JUDGMENT AND RESTORATION OF ISRAEL & JUDAH (1-2)

- a. The Judgment of Israel and Judah (1:2-2:11)
 - God Is Coming Down to Judge (1:2-3)
 - The Sins of Israel and Judah Demand Judgment (1:5a)
 - Idolatry on the High Places (1:5b)
 - Greed and Injustice (2:1-2)
 - Politically Correct Prophets (2:6)
- b. The Remnant of Israel (2:12-13)

2. INDICTMENT OF JUDAH’S LEADERS AND JUDAH’S FUTURE HOPE (3-5)

- a. The Injustice of Political Leaders (3:1-4)
- b. The Politically Correct Prophets vs. Micah (3:5,8-12)

c. The Vision of the Latter Days

- The Gathering of the Gentiles & Peace of the Nations (4:2-5)
- The Gathering of the Humble (4:6-7)
- The Birth of Messiah (5:2-4)
- The Judgment of Israel’s Enemies (5:5b-15)

3. GOD’S CHARGES AGAINST JUDAH (6:1-7:7)

- a. God’s Invitation for Israel to Plead Her Case (6:1-4)
- b. Israel’s Attempts to Please God (6:6-7)
- c. What Really Pleases God (6:8)
Micah is repelled by sacrifices and worship which are not matched by just dealing and real spirituality. His central concerns are for social justice and true religion. (NAC, p. 114)
- d. God’s Punishment for Social Injustice (6:9-16)
 - God has to punish sin or He is unjust
 - Their thirst for more will also be their curse

4. THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF GOD’S KINGDOM (7:8-20)

- a. God’s Purposes in His Peoples’ Exile (7:8-9)
- b. God’s Comfort and Forgiveness (7:18-19)

F. Real Life Lessons from Micah

1. God’s rule exceeds the rule of the nations.
2. God’s holiness demands that sin be punished.
3. God’s Messiah came to bring peace—both spiritual and eventually political peace.
4. True spirituality carries a demand for social justice. Outward forms of worship mean nothing without coming from a changed heart.