



Minor Prophets

Lesson 7

Micah Chapters 1-7

The prophet Micah came from Moreshethgath which was located about 25 miles southeast of Jerusalem. Within his lifetime, Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom would fall to the Assyrians; therefore, many of his prophecies speak of this inevitable tragedy. Also, conditions in his own region of Judah continued to deteriorate especially during the reign of King Ahaz. The bright spot was the drastic spiritual reforms that took place during the reign of Hezekiah, son of King Ahaz. Unlike his father who encouraged the national move toward idol worship, King Hezekiah tore down the high places and destroyed other symbols of idolatry. Unfortunately, Hezekiah's son Manasseh would

later, during his reign, reverse all the good his father had done.

Like Amos, Micah's message spoke to the desperate need for social reforms. Justice in the courts, fairness in the marketplace, and responsible leadership were necessary to establish Yahweh's rule in the land. Deep repentance and true commitment to God and His ways would be foundational for those reforms to take place. But, despite the message of judgment, there was confidence in God's restoration of His people. This would be their hope for the future.

READ MICAH 1-2

- 1. Since Micah is from Judah he mentions the kings who reigned during his life. From your chart, who were the kings of Israel during this time? See also 2 Kings 15:27-38 and 17:1.*
- 2. From your chart, what major prophet was also prophesying during this time?*



Though much of the focus of the prophets has been the northern kingdom of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah is also falling into apostasy. Many times the prophets warned Judah through their judgments of Israel to not make the same mistakes. In Micah 1:5 the references to Samaria and Jerusalem are significant. Samaria is the capital city of the northern kingdom and therefore the seat of justice or injustice within that region. So the sin of the northern kingdom is given a central location in its capital. Also, the reference to Jerusalem refers to "high places." High places were the areas where pagan idol worshipers gathered to worship their gods. This statement identifies that the city of Jerusalem, supposedly the center of Judah's worship of Yahweh, has become nothing more than a place of idol worship and apostasy.

3. What is God's response to this apostasy? Micah 1:6-7

4. What is His promise despite all this disaster? Verses 2:12-13



Micah began his ministry in the reign of Jotham and continued through the reign of Ahaz and nobody listened to him. Then he finally prophesied in the reign of Hezekiah and the leaders and people repented. Micah preached with no response for between 16 and 25 years. *Enduring Word Commentary*

READ MICAH 3-5

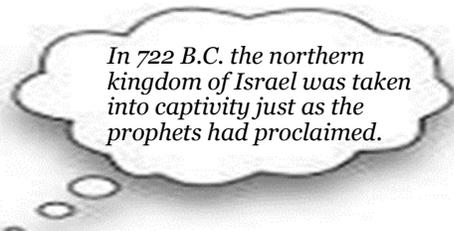
5. In chapter 3, God speaks to rulers and prophets of the people. What criticisms does He give to each, and what discipline does He intend to inflict?

<i>Leaders/rulers criticisms</i>	<i>Prophets/seers criticisms</i>
<i>Disciplines</i>	<i>Disciplines</i>

6. In 4:10, where does God prophesy that He will eventually send Judah (daughter of Zion)?

7. Why is all of this devastation happening? 4:12

8. In chapter 5:2, what is the prophecy concerning the town of Bethlehem? See also Matthew 2:5-6. Why didn't the people at Jesus time think He fulfilled this prophecy? John 1:45-46; 7:40-41, 52



In 722 B.C. the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity just as the prophets had proclaimed.

READ MICAH 6-7

9. What does the Lord say He requires of His people in contrast to outward law keeping? Micah 6:6-8

10. What does Micah state about God at the end of his book that gives them hope for the future? 7:18-20

Bible Memory:

Micah 6:6 & 8 NAS

“With what shall I _____ to the _____ and _____ myself before the God on _____? Shall I come to _____ with _____ offerings, with yearling _____? He has _____ you, O man, what is _____; and what does the Lord _____ of you but to do _____, to love _____, and to _____ with your God?

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
