



## Micah (Gleanings) 2013

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v.1 Samaria was already under siege by the Assyrians (?), and this is why only kings of Judah are mentioned to identify the time of Micah's ministry. Isaiah was a contemporary of Micah, as was Hosea (see Isa.1:1, Hosea 1:1). Micah was an outsider from a small village, but his preaching influenced Hezekiah to repent when Assyria invaded the land (Jer.26:17-19). Isaiah was an insider who had access to the royal court and counseled Hezekiah to trust the Lord during the Assyrian crisis (Isaiah 37:5-7, 21-23, 33-38).

Three times Micah calls for the people to "hear" the message the Lord delivers through him (1:2; 3:1; 6:1). That is of course the great challenge for all of us. Jesus often began his messages with "He who has an ear, let him hear..." And in the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, each letter ends with this admonition (see Rev.2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

In order to glean the message of this prophet, I have broken the book up into four points.

### I. THE JUDGMENT TO COME

- 1:5 The high places were places of idolatry. The idolatry began in the north (Samaria was the capital of the northern tribes) but eventually worked its way south (Jerusalem was the capital of the southern tribes).
- 1:6-7a This is what happened when the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom.
- 1:7a Temple prostitution became common in Israel as they worshipped foreign gods such as Baal and Asherah. The money used in their idolatrous practices would again be used for the same purpose, only now by the Assyrians.
- 1:8-12 Micah wails in grief because of the judgment that comes as a result of Israel's sin...
- 4:10a Amazing prophecy because Babylon was not the most powerful empire at the time, Assyria was. And of course it was Assyria that waylaid the northern kingdom, but Babylon would be God's instrument of judgment upon the southern kingdom.
- 7:13 As we have seen in our study of other prophetic books, the message is first to a particular people at a certain time in history, and yet there is also a message to all people

for all time. The historical message was to the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel, but the secondary message is for all who have ears to hear (See Micah1:2; Isa.24:1-3; II Peter 3:10).

## II. THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE OF THE DAY

### A. Wicked Leaders (3:11a)

1. Judges
2. Priests
3. Prophets (3:5)

### B. Self-Deceived (3:11b; 2:6)

### C. Self-Indulgent (2:11)

- Matthew 23:25; James 5:5

### D. Greedy (2:1-2; I Kings 21)

- It was pretty much the same spiritual climate as in Jesus' first coming. The Pharisees loved money...they certainly were not honest and upright (moneychangers in the temple); And look at what they did with Jesus and how they went about it, securing false witnesses against Him, paying the soldiers to lie about the body of Jesus after the resurrection...

### E. Family Division (7:5-6)

- Jesus used this text to refer to the division that would take place when people repented and put their faith in Him.
- Matthew 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

## III. THE GLORIOUS HOPE FOR THE REMNANT

- In each section the message of hope directly contrasts the preceding message of judgment .
- See Micah 7:3-7, 8-9; A light in the midst of the darkness of coming judgment.
- 5:2-5a; 4:1-7

## IV. THE REPENTANT REMNANT

## A. They Receive Undeserved Mercy (7:18-19)

- Note: It is *always* God's desire to show mercy (II Peter 3:9).

## B. They Offer Godly Sacrifices (6:6-8; Isa.1:11-17)

- To act justly
  - Doing what is right and fair.
  - Matthew 23: 23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--**justice**, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.
  - To act justly is simply to do what is right, based on the Word of God. Examples: not cheating on taxes (Rom.13:7), not cheating on tests (Christian Life class at Liberty, students cheating), treating people fairly (James 5:4-5).
  - Acting justly includes defending against injustice (John 7:50-52; Prov.31:8-9).
  - Acting justly also includes obtaining justice for others when it is in your power to do so (Isa. 1:17; Luke 18:1-8).
- To love mercy
  - See Luke 10: 25-37
  - Note: The implication in the above story is that a Samaritan reached out to a Jew who was in need; See Luke 6:32-36.
- To walk humbly with your God
- Manifestations of pride:
  1. Seeking my glory over God's glory (I Samuel 15:10-12).
  2. Making excuses or becoming arrogant when rebuked (I Sam.15:13-23; II Chron.26).
  3. Decisions without seeking direction from the Lord (James 4:13-16).
  4. Independent/ Unsubmissive to authority.

## CONCLUSION

- Nothing new in this prophet's message, just one more voice to anyone who has ears to hear.