

# Micah

## Summary

The prophet Micah brings a harsh message of judgment to the people of Judah and Israel. Micah talks specifically about the fall of Israel to the Assyrians and the eventual fall of the Southern Kingdom at the hands of the Babylonians. Micah brings a message from God that He is not pleased with their greed, idolatry, and false teachers. The book of Micah goes through three separate cycles in which the people are condemned but then given a look into a hopeful future. The entire book is a testament to God's overwhelming mercy and faithfulness, even in the face of evil behavior that must be punished.

## Author

Micah, the prophet, authored the book of Micah. He was from the town of Moresheth, an agricultural town around 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem. Although we do not have evidence of his particular calling, we know that he was well-known due to his reference in Jeremiah 26:18.

## Date

Micah prophesied in the days of the kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (750-686 B.C.). Micah wrote his messages, eventually to be compiled in the book of Micah, in 700 B.C.

## Primary Characters

Micah (1-7)

## Historical Moments

The Fall of Israel (Micah 1)

The Fall of Judah (Micah 3)

The Messiah Is Prophesied (Micah 5)

## Major Theological Themes

**God Is Sovereign** - God is the Sovereign Creator of the universe and His control over the world is unlimited. Even the greatest and most powerful nations on earth pale in comparison to the all-encompassing power of God. He uses the nations as He wills and punishes those that rise up against Him. There is no limit to the power and influence of God.

**God Is Long-Suffering** - Despite the fact that many of the people completely disregarded the desires and laws that God had given them, He still continued to love them. Micah asks, *Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy* (Micah 7:18). God shows His continuous patience with the people of Israel and Judah, even amidst the intense punishment they are to receive. Micah gives the people hope that though punishment is necessary, there is a greater future ahead for those who follow God.

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## Lessons Learned from Micah

**God Cares About Our Resources** - A large portion of the book of Micah addresses the themes of injustice and greed. He comes down on the people for acting in a selfish manner and not considering the plight of those less fortunate. Many of the leaders were taking advantage of their position of power and using it to advance themselves without regard to the poor or powerless. It is clear that God wants our social and economic actions to be just and in-line with His teaching of mercy and compassion. God calls us to care for those who are disenfranchised by society. We should never let security or economic gain get in the way of loving and caring for people.

**God Desires Love and Humility** - After Micah criticizes the practices of many of the leaders of Judah and Israel, he asks the question, *What does the LORD require?* (Micah 6:8). In response to this question, Micah answers that the Lord desires for us to *act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God* (Micah 6:8). Once again, God calls us to be merciful in the way we treat those that are less fortunate and for us to do this with humility.