

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Prophecy

October 13: Micah 1-7 (John Morris)

Reading for October 13, 2017

MICAH

THE MAN

We don't know much about Micah, himself. Interestingly, he carried the same name (in abbreviated form) as Micaiah the son of Imlah who prophesied in the days of Ahab and Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22). Their name means "Who is like YHWH?" Micah was from "Moresheth" (1:1), perhaps the same location as "Moresheth Gath" mentioned later in the chapter (1:14), but we can't be certain. It may have been located at the site about five miles west of Gath (known today as Tell ej-Judeidah).

HIS TIME

Micah prophesied "in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah" (1:1) which made him contemporary with Isaiah and Hosea (see 1:1 of each book). In those years, Judah saw both prosperity and disaster—prosperity in the days of Jotham and Hezekiah (though Hezekiah's reign saw considerable hardship, as well), and disaster in the days of Ahaz. Jotham and Hezekiah were God-fearing men. Ahaz, on the other hand, seems to have set out to see just how wicked he could be (2 Kings 16:10-16; 2 Chron. 28:2-4, 22-25, 29). The good of Jotham and Hezekiah, as wonderful as it was, however, had little lasting impact on the spiritual state of the general population (2 Chron. 27:2). Even Hezekiah's historic reforms seemed to have elicited little more than superficial and/or temporary change in the nation. Micah takes no notice of them, whatsoever.

THE BOOK

Micah prophesies to both Israel and Judah, and the sins he rebukes are primarily those of the ruling class. Early in the book, he singles out the capital cities (1:5), and then repeatedly addresses himself to the heads, rulers, princes, priests, and prophets (3:1, 9, 11; 7:3).

Within the book, there is considerable Messianic content (e.g. chap. 4:1-5; 5:2). Isaiah, as we noted earlier this year, is sometimes called "the fifth gospel" because of his many Messianic predictions. Micah, however, his "Minor" contemporary, was permitted to make a number of such predictions, himself.

The book is organized into three parts:

- Chaps. 1-2: Judgment on Israel and Judah & salvation of a remnant.
- Chaps. 3-5: Sinful prophets and leaders & lots of Messianic prophecy.
- Chaps. 6-7: God prosecutes His case against Israel & promises future blessings.

Each section begins with a call to "Hear" (1:2; 3:1; 6:1), so should be read with "ears to hear."

May YHWH bless your reading today.

Comment:

Charles Fry::

In the excellent content of Micah's messages, I love the climactic "What does the Lord require of you?"

Micah 6:6-8 (RSV)

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my first-born for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God?

Cheating and Violence to Be Punished

Thank you, John!

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, John!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Very interesting & helpful John! Thank you!!! Whenever I previously thought of Micah I could only confirm the prophecy of Jesus' birth came from him. Now I have a new, deeper perspective.

Thanks for pointing out the call to hear. I also appreciated Charles' verses above.

I liked Micah 7:18 which says, "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy."

There were at least 3 or 4 references asking "Who is like God..." in proclaiming, in prophesying, in pleading, and in pardoning. This is a book about God's judgement and redemption.