

- I) **V1-2 INTRO:** The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jothan, Ahaz
- II) **THE BOOK OF MICAH:** Was written from 735-710 BC
- III) **MICAH:** Was from Moresheth Gath, located around 25 mi. SW of Jerusalem on the border of Philistia
HE WAS CALLED: To give a strong message to the rulers located in Jerusalem
- IV) **GOD SAW:** The poor treatment of the poor by the rich, and called Micah to address the situation
 - a) **Micah spoke strongly against using social or political power for personal gain**
 - 1) **Jas 3:16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.
- V) **IT IS INTERESTING:** How during the time of Micah, God moved Micah to speak against this corruption
 - a) **The abusers of position and power were rebuked for their corruption, cruelty, and covetousness**
 - 1) **They used the poor to line their own pockets with the belongings of the people (2:1-2)**
- VI) **OF COURSE:** This is something that still takes place
 - a) **ACCORDING TO CNN POLITICS:** Hillary Clinton and her husband, former Pres. Bill Clinton, combined to earn more than \$153 million in paid speeches from 2001 until Hillary launched her presidential campaign last spring. In total, the two gave 729 speeches from February 2001 until May, receiving an average payday of \$210,795 for each address. The two also reported at least \$7.7 million for at least 39 speeches to big banks, including Goldman Sachs and UBS, with Hillary collecting at least \$1.8 million for at least eight speeches to big banks.
 - b) **This is amazing when you realize that she told Diane Sawyer that she and Bill left the White House “dead broke”, and this fact is probably what former VP Al Gore could call “An Inconvenient Truth”!**
- VII) **CHANGED NATIONS:** Will result from changed hearts
 - a) **If you put the person together, you can put the world together**
 - 1) **Transformed people produce transformed nations**
- VIII) **MICAH:** Was sent to preach a message of punishment that was about to fall on Judah and Samaria
 - a) **He begins by speaking of their sins, moves on to impending punishment, and ends with restoration**
- IX) **APPROXIMATELY 1/3 OF THE BOOK:** Deals with the exposing of the sins of Judah and Israel
 - a) **He speaks of oppression, bribery in the legal and religious system, exploitation of the weak; and speaks of covetousness, violence, and pride**
 - 1) **Because of these sins, God will bring judgment but he does not leave the people hopeless**

2) The last portion of the book will conclude with the promise of God to restore when they repent

X) **WHAT WE WILL SEE IN MICAH:** Is the relationship between real spirituality and social ethics
a) God desires His people to have a heart of justice and fairness tempered by humility and true faith

XI) **KEY:** The answer to this problem is the same today as it was during Micah's time
a) Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God

XII) **KEY:** Justice, mercy, and humility reveal genuine faith in God
a) This does not spring from man's imagination, but is based on God's revelation

I) **THE NAME MICAH:** Means Who is like Jehovah, and is similar to the name Michael
a) He ministered during the time of other prophets: Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos

II) **KEY:** Though he begins his book with denunciations of sins, he still leaves the people with hope
a) Mic 7:18-19 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage. He does not retain His anger forever, *because He delights in mercy.* He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea

III) **GOD HATES SIN:** But He loves sinners and desires to save them
a) Though He brings judgment, it is His desire to save those who come to Him in faith
1) Jn 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

IV) **THE WORD:** Of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah

a) This gives us the date of the book by mentioning the names of three kings
1) Jothan (739-731 BC), Ahaz (731-715 BC), and Hezekiah (715-686 BC) were kings of Judah

V) **HE DEALS MOSTLY:** With the southern kingdom, but does speak of the northern kingdom (1:6)

a) This shows us that his ministry largely took place before the Assyrian captivity of Israel (722 BC)

VI) **UNDER KING HEZEKIAH:** Reforms took place that began to deal with Judah's idolatry

a) This causes bible scholars to conclude that much of his ministry took place before these reforms

1) This is why the date of the book is around 735-710 BC

VII) **V1 INDICATES:** That his message is to the northern and southern kingdom, with judgment coming soon

- VIII) V2 HEAR: All you peoples listen O earth and all that is in it Let the Lord God be a witness against you
- IX) **THE CITY SAMARIA:** Was the capital of the northern kingdom and was a center of idolatry
a) It had a temple that was dedicated to Baal and God was bringing judgment on them and Judah
- X) **NOTICE:** *Hear all you peoples*, which reveals that this message is also intended for our ears
a) The message, though directed to a certain situation at a particular time has meaning to this day
- XI) **THE LORD GOD:** From His holy temple is a witness against all the peoples
a) Micah is calling God as a witness to the things that he is about to proclaim
- XII) V3-5 FOR BEHOLD: The Lord is coming out of His place He will come down and tread on the high
a) God is about to tread on the *high places*, which are the centers of idolatry
1) God is about to act in judgment: He is about to come down and judge the people
- XIII) **KEY:** He is bringing judgment on the centers of idolatry, including the cities of *Samaria* and *Jerusalem*
a) These are *cities* associated with *religion*: Like Mecca, Rome, Athens, Lhasa (Tibet) or Varanasi, India
- XIV) V4 THE MOUNTAINS: Will melt under Him and the valleys will split like wax before the fire
a) This is a picture of volcanic activity and earthquakes revealing Him to be the God of nature
1) Ps 18:7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.
- I) V5 ALL THIS: Is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel
a) God is speaking of both the northern and southern kingdoms, and referring to capital cities
- II) **EVEN AS WE SAW IN AMOS:** They were mixing idolatry with worship to God
a) 1 Ki 11:6-8 Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.
b) 2 Ki 17:12-18 they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments *and* My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets." Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and *went* after the nations who *were* all around them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them. So they left all the commandments of

the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image *and* two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

1) He ultimately also judged Judah, through Nebuchadnezzar

III) V6-7 THEREFORE: I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field places for planting a vineyard

a) God is saying that Samaria will be totally destroyed, leveled and ruined

IV) V7 ALL HER: Carved images shall be beaten to pieces and her pay as a harlot shall be burned with fire

a) Their idols were destroyed and they were judged for their practice of idolatry

1) Interestingly, Micah mentions pay of a harlot three times in this verses

V) FACT: In giving in to idolatry, Israel became a harlot in the eyes of God

VI) KEY: Israel is the wife of God, and she has become a prostitute

a) God had told the nation that He would prosper them

1) Dt 8:17-19 (Do not) say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

VII) DUE TO HER UNFAITHFULNESS: She thinks her prosperity is coming from her false gods

a) God calls this the wages of her harlotry

1) Is 1:21 How the faithful city (Jerusalem) has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers.

2) Ezek 23:30 I will do these things to you because you have gone as a *harlot* after the Gentiles, because you have become defiled by their idols.

I) V8 THEREFORE: I will wail and howl I will go stripped and naked I will make a wailing like the jackals

a) Micah is saying that he will be a symbolic picture of what the people will experience

1) What he appears like will be what they will experience

2) He will visibly represent their being plundered, and their mourning

II) V9 FOR: *Her wounds are incurable* for it has come to Judah it has come to the gate of My people

a) Nothing will prevent their complete ruin because they are ripe for judgment

1) Mt 23:29-33 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the

prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' *guilt*. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

III) V9 HER WOUNDS: Are incurable (she has crossed the line with no possibility of returning)

IV) KEY: In spite of God's continual crying out for them to repent, they have turned a deaf ear
a) Jer 25:4 the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear.

V) QUESTION: I wonder if it is possible for our own country, in this day, to do the same kind of thing

a) There is a huge difference between hearing the word of God, and obeying it

VI) FACT: The depth of reception of God's word is determined by the depth of obedience to it

a) Ezek 33:30-33 As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.' So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; *for they hear your words, but they do not do them*. And when this comes to pass--surely it will come--then they will know that a prophet has been among them."

1) Like it was in the time of John the Baptist: a voice crying in the wilderness

VII) V10-11 TELL IT NOT: In Gath weep not in all of Beth Aphrah roll yourself in the dust pass by in

a) Interestingly, Gath literally has been translated "weep town": weep not in weep town

1) Gath was a city of the Philistines: Do not tell them of the judgment coming upon you

VIII) BETH APHRAH: House of dust, a town that is lost in history but who were told to mourn in misery

SHAPHIR: Beauty town; unknown location: instead of being admired for beauty, you will be shamed

ZAANAN: March town; unknown, but it did not march in victory

BETH EZEL: House of root (firmly rooted) will be unrooted and destroyed

IX) V12 FOR: The inhabitant of Maroth (bitterness) pined for good but disaster came down from the Lord

a) This city waited anxiously for good, but a bitter report came: Assyria was on the march

1) The Assyrian king came up to the walls of Jerusalem, but did not invade at that time (2 Ki 19)

X) V13 O INHABITANTS: Of Lachish harness the chariot to the swift steeds

a) LACHISH: Literally, horse town: there were many stables there

1) It was SW of Jerusalem, near the border of Philistia and the place *idolatry* was introduced

l) V14 THEREFORE: You shall give presents to Moresheth Gath the houses of Achzib shall be a lie

- a) It may mean that Lachish, under siege, will try to pay for help from this city
- II) **THE HOUSES OF ACHZIB: Shall be a lie to the kings of Israel**
 - a) Achzib literally translates “lie town”: they were known to be a town filled with lies
- III) **FACT: Some places actually have reputations**
 - a) Titus 1:12-13 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith
- IV) **THEY ARE LIE TOWN: Because they would promise help to the northern kingdom, but not provide it**
- V) **V15-16 I: Will yet bring an heir to you O inhabitant of Mareshah the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam**
 - a) Help will come to Israel, but not at this time
- VI) **THIS MAY BE: A suggestion that the Glory of Israel (Messiah) will ultimately be their deliverer**
- VII) **V16 MAKE: Yourself bald and cut off your hair because of your precious children enlarge your**
 - a) This is a command to mourn at the loss of their children, who will be taken captive
- VIII) **ONE SAD FACT: Is that the children so very often reap the consequences of unfaithful parents**
 - a) In failing to serve the Lord with faithful hearts, the children end up paying the price
- IX) **INTERESTINGLY: In the OT, God says there is a fruit that comes from compromise**
 - a) Placing something before the Lord still has consequences
 - 1) 1 Th 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
 - 2) 1 Jn 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.