

Micah 3-5 – 21 May 2026

“The Leaders We Need”

Introduction

*Micah is from the lowland foothills of Judah

*He's writing between 740-687 BC during the time of the Assyrian crisis (722 BC)

Assyria will conquer Israel in north but not Judah
Judah will ultimately fall to Babylon 140 yrs later

*Chap 1-2 is addressed to 1:2 to all people of earth

There's no benefit to selfishly gaining everything on earth and not know God

*Chap 3-5 is addressed in 3:1 to Israel's leaders

It's a contrast of Israel's corrupt leaders & God's good rule over Israel

What kind of leaders do we need?

Today, let's look at 3 key qualifications for godly leaders

#1 – Ones that give out justice – We serve others (Chap 3)

Read 3:1-3

1. Leaders are always held to a higher standard
 - a. Their role is to model what others should do
 - b. Their role is to keep justice as the standard
 - c. There will always be a person in a group that is in sin, but never succumb to having leadership that's in sin
2. Israel's leaders are here seen *taking from* rather than *providing for* the people
 - a. Which are you living for? (Read I John 3:16)
 - b. We make excuses that we're just trying to get ahead, but if it's harmful to others, it's evil

Read 3:4

1. In times of distress, God isn't obligated to help
 - a. It's His grace that wants to swoop in & help
 - b. But not if we live for our idols (Read Isa 59:2)

Read 3:5-7

1. Every culture has these false prophets
 - a. Those that speak to the people about the “right” direction for their life
 - b. They always want to speak peace, even if God’s message is “repent or judgement falls”
 - c. False prophets love you until you won’t take a bribe to agree w/ them – then it’s a fight
2. The day comes in which false prophets will experience the limit of their power & influence
 - a. I.e. *Carman ‘The Witches Invitation’* – Which mantra, or incantation will you tell the demons that drag your soul to hell in the end?

Read 3:8

1. It is only by the Spirit of the Lord that one can rise and meet the challenges of their day
 - a. Jesus quoted Isa 61:1-2a that *the Spirit* prompted Him to bring grace
 - b. Yet Isa 61:2b says *the Spirit* will also be on Jesus when He returns for vengeance

2. Follow God into speaking the truth in love to meet each diverse situation that we face

Read 3:9-12

1. These bad civil & religious leaders think what they're doing is IAW God & His will – but it's not
 - a. They're self-deceived (Read II Tim 3:5)
2. Their doings will cause the whole nation's judgement
 - a. We must stand against false teachers b/c they will lead our friends/family to judgement

#2 – Ones that promise a restored life – We believe in salvation (Chap 4)

Read 4:1-3

1. Chap 3 showed the false teachers brought injustice & destruction to Jerusalem; but the Lord will restore Jerusalem with Himself as King
2. In that day Jerusalem will be the headquarters for *all* nations

- a. The Millennial Kingdom will be justice, peace & learning of God
3. Today power sucks provision from people, in that day provision of God's power flows to people

Read 4:4-5

1. What a wonderful expression of double-sided commitment
 - a. They can do whatever they want; we're serving God
 - b. Our God will keep us forever & ever
2. Do we have faith in God that *transcends peer pressure* of man? (Though all people go to their god)
3. Do we have faith in God that *transcends bodily concern* (Job 13:15 – Though He slay me...)
4. Do we have a faith in God that *transcends understanding*? (Dan 3:17 – But even if He doesn't save, we won't serve your gods)

Read 4:6-8

1. Now this restoration is called *the Kingdom*
2. Those God brought calamity on, will be gathered

3. This is indeed the kingdom long promised to Israel

Read 4:9-10

1. This is chronologically the earliest mention of Babylon as God's tool to judge Israel's sins
2. Deliverance will come, but not until their punishment

Read 4:11-13

1. We've begun to see restored Israel w/ many nations assembled against her in the 20th century
2. Read Zec 12:3,6
3. To come against Israel in Jerusalem is one of the dumbest things a human can do
 - a. God is working out His plan including them

#3 – Ones that point to Jesus – We seek His reign (Chap 5)

Read 5:1-2

1. Now Micah comes back to the present distress of Israel that even their judge or leader is smitten

- a. This speaks of their Babylonian punishment but looks to Messiah's future salvation
 - b. Though Zedekiah was struck, also Jesus was struck as He was tried leading to the cross
2. This is where the chapter goes, to talk of Messiah
 - a. The everlasting God will come from Bethlehem to be Israel's ruler

Read 5:3a

1. At Jesus' 1st coming – He comes as a child
2. Read Isa 9:6 – God comes as a Son
3. This also alludes to the time of the 2nd coming as recorded in Rev 12

Read 5:3b-5a

1. Now at the 2nd coming – The flock of Israel is saved and the earth is filled with peace

Read 5:5b-6

1. This refers to Hezekiah's day in which God himself defeated Assyria so they couldn't defeat Jerusalem and Judah (II Kings 19)

2. Is the Assyrian coming in the future?
 - a. This could refer to a part of Eze 38-39
 - b. Could also refer to the Anti-Christ as well
 - i. Could be genetically Assyrian (yet from the revised Roman Empire)
 - ii. There are 3-5 million Assyrian alive today
3. We won't know who these 7 shepherds & 8 princes are until it happens
4. But it's always God that does the delivering not the strength of Israel or any person

Read 5:7-9

1. This seems to be the 1444,000 Jews from Rev 7 that will serve the Lord during the 7 yr Trib
2. When God delivers, He delivers abundantly

Read 5:10-15

1. Not just false religions, but every power structure of man will be thrown down
 - a. All that man has put trust in – removed
 - b. Every self-effort causing pride in man - removed

Conclusion

Now all of us will be leaders either from time to time or on an on-going basis

Be the leader God wants, one that makes a difference

1. Be a leader that gives our justice

- a. We don't live to take advantage of others
- b. We serve others for their best interests

2. Be a leader that promises a restored life

- a. We don't drown our sorrows away
- b. We offer the real hope of salvation in the end

3. Be a leader that points people to Jesus

- a. We're limited in our own power & ability
- b. We seek His reign in our life