



Message Series Guide

Micah - do justice • love kindness • walk humbly

Part I – Coming Destruction

Micah 1:1-16

Love and hate. Peace and justice. Grace and wrath. In seven short chapters, the prophet Micah presents the true picture of God – the almighty Lord who hates sin and loves sinners. Much of the book is devoted to describing God’s coming wrath and judgement over His people who have fallen deep into idolatry and division. However, Micah also reveals the hope of God’s love and grace for all call upon the Lord and repent of their sins. The words of Micah challenge us to exercise justice and kindness to others and press on toward a world that better resembles the Kingdom of Heaven. “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

READ:

Micah 1:1-16 • Romans 1:18 • Jeremiah 23:29 • Micah 6:8

- What is your view God? As Loving? As Wrathful? Both? How do we hold these two characteristics in tension? What does it mean that God hates sin, but loves the sinner?
- Who was the inspired author of the book of Micah? What authority does the prophet have to give his message? What is the purpose of the book? To whom is the book written? What is the main theme?
- What do we know about the kings mentioned in 1:1? What do we know about the pattern of obedience → judgement → repentance → restoration of the Israelites throughout the Old Testament?
- How is the coming of God described in 1:3-4? Explain the significance of this description of God coming down from the high place of the earth.
- Whose transgressions (sins) specifically addressed in 1:5? Where were Samaria and Jerusalem located? Why did God refer specifically to them? What did God say would happen to Samaria in 1:6?
- Idolatry brought swift and harsh judgment against the nation of Israel. Why does God judge idolatry so harshly? What are the idols that we tend worship today?
- Using the names of the towns, Micah’s wordplay (1:10-15) reflects the various disaster that Judah will face. What point do you think Micah is making by using each town’s name like this?
- How does Micah say the people should react, and what reason is given in 1:16?

DISCUSS:

- What does it mean to do justice? How do we love kindness? How do we walk humbly with our God?
- Why was Israel divided into two kingdoms (northern + southern)? Why is division in the body of Christ sinful? How does focusing on our own “kingdoms” cause us to lose sight of God’s Kingdom?
- Why are Christians called to be a peculiar people in this world? What is the danger of being both ‘in’ this world and ‘of’ this world? How are we to be set apart? Give examples of how that is accomplished?
- Many people do not like the idea that God is wrathful and judgmental. How do we reconcile those character traits with a God who is also slow to anger and forgiving?
- What should we learn from the fact that Micah grieved about his message, yet he continued to preach it?

PRAY:

Pray that God gives you a deeper understanding of His full character and nature (love, wrath, peace, justice).

RESPOND:

This week, identify how you can do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.



Sermon Notes

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Date Written:

Between 750 and 680 B.C.

Micah is one of the 12 minor prophets of the Old Testament.

Major Theme of Micah:

Love and Hate - God loves the sinner but hates the sin.

Purpose:

Micah is a warning to God's people (Israelites) of the coming judgement of their sin, but also the offer of forgiveness to all who would repent.

Being God's people is not about God taking us out of the world. It's about God taking the world out of us.

QUOTE:

God is infinite...but grace is not infinite. God sets limits to His patience and forbearance. He warns us over and over again that someday the ax will fall and His judgment will be poured out. - R.C. Sproul

When God's people become distracted by the kingdom of men, they lose sight of the Kingdom of God.

When God's people refuse to repent, what should have been done willingly will be done forcibly by God.

QUOTE:

We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere. - Leonard Ravenhill -

Our character becomes our future.