INTRODUCTION:
• Micah was a prophet assigned to the Southern Kingdom of Judah
• He was a contemporary of Jonah, Hosea and Amos who were ministering in the Northern Kingdom of Israel
• He was also a contemporary of Isaiah who was ministering in Jerusalem while Micah was ministering 20 miles Southwest of Jerusalem
• Micah’s ministry begins when Jotham was King of Judah and his ministry overlaps the reign of Ahaz and Hezekiah who led the nation in revival and hosted the largest Passover celebration in Israel’s history
• The period of time covering the years of Micah’s ministry are found in 2 Kings 15:17-20:21 and 2 Chronicles 26-30.
• Micah also witnessed the destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in 720 B.C. and he ministered during a time when the nation of Judah lived in fear of invasion by foreign powers
• This is the political and religious context for the book of Micah

Micah’s influence as a prophet is evident in that Micah is quoted 3 times in the Bible
• The elders of Judah quote Micah in Jeremiah 26:18
• The Magi quoted Micah in Matthew 2:5-6
• Jesus quoted Micah in Matthew 10:35-36

Micah also predicted six events that are now fulfilled in history
• He predicted the fall of Samaria (Micah 1:6-7)
• He predicted the Invasion of Judah by Sennacherib (Micah 1:9-16)
• He predicted the fall of Jerusalem (Micah 3:12; 7:13)
• He predicted the Exile in Babylon (Micah 4:10)
• He predicted the return from captivity (Micah 4:1-8, 13; 7:11, 14-17)
• He predicted the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

The Book of Micah is divided into 3 Sermons
• The first is a Message of Judgement (Micah 1-2)
• The second is a Message to Judah’s leaders (Micah 3-5)
• The third is a Message of Restoration (Micah 6-7)
• The first message is divided into 4 sections

(Vs. 1-5) prophesies judgment to all of Israel

Micah 1:1–5 (NKJV)
The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord God be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple. For behold, the Lord is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?

Vs. 5 tells us the reason why God is judging Israel

- God doesn't accuse the, He simply asks them... what are these shrines doing in the high places of Samaria and Jerusalem?
- Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Jerusalem was the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah
- If the people were not involved in idolatry, they wouldn't be there
- There are things that should never be in our possession as believers
- The fact that we own them is a statement against us
- The presence of these idol shrines was a statement against God's people
- We know this prophesy was fulfilled against the Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C. when Sargon II destroyed Samaria
- It was fulfilled in the Southern Kingdom in 701 B.C. when Sennacherib invaded Judah and again when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 605, 597 and 586 B.C.

(Vs. 6-9) Prophesies Judgment against Samaria

Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations. All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot.

As we said previously, this was fulfilled in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians
Now, it’s important to note that the prophets of the Old Testament weren’t prophesying out of anger… but often their hearts were broken with compassion for the people.

Vs. 8 we read that Micah was lamenting the fact that Samaria would be judged… he stripped naked, wailed like a jackal and mourned like an ostrich.

Vs. 9 we’re told why… because he lamented the finality and extent of God’s judgment… her wounds are incurable and it will come to all.

(Vs. 10-2:11) Prophesies Judgment to Judah

God tells Judah they are either going to be destroyed or taken into Captivity

- Beth Aphrah will roll in the dust because they are defeated
- Saphir, Zaanan, Beth-ezel, Moroth and Moreshah will be carried into captivity
- Lachish will try to escape the Assyrians without success
- Lachish was the first city to adopt Baal worship
- (Vs. 15) All the leadership will flee to the Cave of Adullam (where David hid)

2 Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the LORD: “Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time. In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: ‘We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has
removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.’” ⁵ Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the L ORD. ⁶ “Do not prattle,” you say to those who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult. ⁷ You who are named the house of Jacob: “Is the Spirit of the L ORD restricted? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?” ⁸ “Lately My people have risen up as an enemy—You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war. ⁹ The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever. ¹⁰ “Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction. ¹¹ If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, ‘I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,’ Even he would be the prattler of this people.

God lays out his charges against Judah

(Vs. 1-2) God says they oppressed the poor and defenseless

Micah 2:1–2 (NKJV)

2 Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand. ² They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

• They were coveting other people’s businesses and property

(Vs. 6) God says they opposed God’s Messengers and His Word

Micah 2:6 (NKJV)

6 “Do not prattle,” you say to those who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult.

• They told the prophets to mind their own business

(Vs. 7-10) God says the prophets were guilty of prophesying evil towards God’s people

Micah 2:8–9 (NKJV)

8 “Lately My people have risen up as an enemy—You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned
from war. 9 The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.

• They were using God’s Word to put judgment and condemnation on the people… something I believe many preachers are guilty of today

(Vs. 11) God says the people preferred the false prophets rather than the true prophets

Micah 2:11 (NKJV)

11 If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, ‘I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,’ Even he would be the prattler of this people.

• The false prophets were preaching wine and drink… good times, live how you want
• I spoke to someone recently who told me he was for marriage equality which is the PC way of saying he supports gay marriage
• He attends a local mega church in the area
• He went on to tell me how Christians need to stop judging and get to loving
• God is in charge and we need to stop trying to change people but just love and accept them the way they are
• He’s been listening to the false prophets of our day

(Vs. 12-13) Micah prophesies the Restoration of Israel

Micah 2:12–13 (NKJV)

12 12 “I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

• I think we need to understand that God’s purpose for judgment is not to punish Israel, but to restore Israel
• (Vs. 13) The Lord is the One who breaks Israel out of captivity and leads them into freedom just like He did when He led them from Egypt to Canaan

The Second Message focuses on Judah’s leaders (Micah 3-5)

Micah 3:1–12 (NKJV)
And I said: “Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?

(Vs. 5-8) One of the problems with Judah’s prophets is they were corrupt

Micah 3:5–7 (NKJV)

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who make my people stray; Who chant “Peace” While they chew with their teeth, But who prepare war against him Who puts nothing into their mouths: 6 “Therefore you shall have night without vision, And you shall have darkness without divination; The sun shall go down on the prophets, And the day shall be dark for them. 7 So the seers shall be ashamed, And the diviners abashed; Indeed they shall all cover their lips; For there is no answer from God.”

• They prophesied blessing to people who supported them financially, but they prophesied war to those who didn’t support them
• Unfortunately, I know of many prophets who like to prophesy to rich people to get their money
• They focus on the rich and famous and they bring a message of love and acceptance in order to get them into their church
• They use the message of grace to justify their corrupt brand of church… hey let’s meet in a bar, drink beers and talk Jesus! Yeah… that’s what Jesus would do! Hang out with sinners!
• Jesus never compromised His identity or character to minister to people, neither should we
• (Vs. 7) God says their ministries are going to come to an end and they will be exposed as frauds

(Vs. 9-12) God brings charges against the leaders of Judah

Micah 3:9–12 (NKJV)

9 Now hear this, You heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And pervert all equity, 10 Who build up Zion with bloodshed And Jerusalem with iniquity: 11 Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, and say, “Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us.”

• The abhor justice and pervert equity
• The judges took bribes

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• The refused to teach unless they got paid (they were hirelings)
• They prophesied for money like fortune tellers
• (Vs. 12) As a result, Mt. Zion, Jerusalem and Mt. Moriah will be made desolate
• This prophecy was fulfilled in 586 B.C. by King Nebuchadnezzar by Babylon

Micah 4:1–8 (NKJV)
4 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD’s house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. 2 Many nations shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Again God reminds us that He is a God of grace and mercy
• Although Israel is suffering the consequences of their idolatry, God is compassionate, full of grace, slow to anger and abounding in love
• God reminds them that their sin doesn’t stop His plan from being fulfilled through them
• We read (Vs. 1) in the latter days… speaking of the Kingdom Age that will take place during the Millennial Reign of Christ
• (Vs. 3) There will be worldwide peace… they will beat their swords into plowshares
• (Vs. 4) There will be worldwide security… no one will make them afraid
• (Vs. 5) There will be worldwide unity… unified by the Lord our God Forever
• (Vs. 6) There will be worldwide compassion… the lame, the outcast
• (Vs. 7) There will be worldwide government… The Lord will reign

(Vs. 9-10) Judah will be delivered from Babylon

Micah 4:9–10 (NKJV)
9 Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in your midst? Has your counselor perished? For pangs have seized you like a woman in labor. 10 Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, Like a woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city, You shall dwell in the field, And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.
(vs. 11-13) Jerusalem will be delivered from an attempted siege that will take place in the end times

Micah 4:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Now also many nations have gathered against you, Who say, “Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion.” 12 But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, Nor do they understand His counsel; For He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

Chapter 5 is a comprehensive prophecy concerning the Messiah

- In 586 B.C., the people of Judah gathered troops to defend themselves against the Babylonians who were attacking them
- They were defeated by Nebuchadnezzar and Zedekiah, King of Judah, was captured, humiliated and sent to Babylon
- God’s people needed a Messiah that could defend Himself and His people

(Vs. 2) We are told that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

The Messiah would care for Israel and bring peace

Micah 5:4–5 (NKJV)

4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

The Messiah would destroy Israel’s enemies

Micah 5:9 (NKJV)

9 Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries, And all your enemies shall be cut off.

The Messiah would deliver Israel from idolatry

Micah 5:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Your carved images I will also cut off, And your sacred pillars from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands; 14 I will pluck your wooden images from your midst; Thus I will destroy your cities.
The Messiah would bring justice to the world

Micah 5:15 (NKJV)
15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury On the nations that have not heard.”

The Third Message Is A Message Of Restoration and Grace (Chapters 6-7)

- (Vs. 1-7) God brings His complaint against His people
- What is God’s complaint? God told His people what was good

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)
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?

- The Mosaic Law told them the difference between good and bad, right and wrong
- But they were not able to live up to the righteous demands of the law

Micah 6:13–14 (NKJV)
13 “Therefore I will also make you sick by striking you, By making you desolate because of your sins. 14 You shall eat, but not be satisfied; Hunger shall be in your midst. You may carry some away, but shall not save them; And what you do rescue I will give over to the sword.

- The Bible says that there is none righteous, no not one and because there is none righteous Micah ends Chapter 6 with these words… therefore you shall bear the reproach of My people

(Vs. 2) we read God’s complaint against all humanity

Micah 7:2–4 (NKJV)
2 The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net. 3 That they may successfully do evil with both hands—The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together. 4 The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity.

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• Jesus questioned in Luke 18:8… when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?
• God’s complaint is one of man’s sin, but one of faith… does man trust God for salvation?

**Micah 7:7 (NKJV)**

7 Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

*When Judah looks to the Lord alone for salvation, they will see His righteousness*

**Micah 7:9 (NKJV)**

9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD, Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.

*When Judah returns to the Lord, the Lord will pardon them*

**Micah 7:18–20 (NKJV)**

18 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. 19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old.

• Of course this will happen when Jesus returns and they look upon Him whom they have pierced and they will mourn for Him as for an only child
• On that day they will realize that Jesus is their Messiah and God will forgive them and restore them
• Let me say this… God forgives you of your sin… not because you repent… but because He delights in mercy!
• We need to meditate on that truth, that reality and let it sink into our lives