

- Micah 6:6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?
- 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, **but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Micah's Name
1. Micah's name is a short form of Micaiah meaning, "Who is like unto the Lord?"
  2. Micah 7:18 is a word play on his name ("Who is a God like unto thee")
- B. His home was Moreshah which was a town 25 miles Southwest of Jerusalem (in Judah). It is near Gath (where Goliath was born).
1. Amos' home of Tekoa was only 17 miles distant
  2. Micah was a man from the country, not the big city
- C. The elders of Judah cited Micah to spare Jeremiah's life - over 100 years later (Jer 26:16-19)
- Jer 26:18 Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest. 19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.**
- D. The opening verse tells much about the date and place – "The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem." (All these kings were over the Southern Kingdom).
1. Jotham's rule began in about 740 B.C. – less than 20 years before the Northern Kingdom was taken away captive.
  2. Hezekiah's reign ended in about 698 B.C.
  3. The first and last of these three kings were good or very good, but Ahaz was a wicked king.
  4. As he says, Micah is prophesying to both kingdoms – Samaria (Northern) and Jerusalem (Southern)
- E. Micah was contemporary with Isaiah and Hosea, and possibly Amos, and his ministry was during the captivity of the Northern Kingdom and continued afterwards. He prophesied to both kingdoms.
- F. Historical texts of the day in the Bible are:
1. II Kings 15 to 20
  2. II Chronicles 27 to 32
  3. Isaiah 36 to 39
  4. This was a well documented period because it is when Israel was taken captive - God gave plenty of warning.
  5. Not only was the Northern Kingdom taken captive, but the Southern one was forced to pay tribute to Assyria at the same time.
- G. Micah is quoted in the New Testament

1. Matthew 2:5,6 quotes from Micah 5:2 prophesying the location of the Birth of the Messiah
    - a. Note: the verse also says that Jesus will be “ruler in Israel.” If Israel is Israel (and it is!) then this prophecy has yet to be fulfilled.
  2. Jesus quoted Micah 7:6 in Matthew 10:35-36 regarding the dividing of families caused by faith in Christ and rejection of Christ.
- H. Micah has much to say about a restored Kingdom with Christ as its ruler in verses such as Micah 4:1-7.

## **II. OUTLINE OF MICAH**

- A. Chapter 1-2: a message to the people
- B. Chapter 3-5: a message to the rulers
- C. Chapter 6: the LORD’s controversy with His people
- D. Chapter 7: future repentance and blessings

## **III. A MESSAGE TO THE COMMON PEOPLE - CHAPTERS 1 and 2**

- A. The whole earth is the audience (1:2)
- B. The announcement is that God will judge the transgression of Jacob (1:5)
  1. Jacob is both Kingdoms
  2. Israel is particularly singled out (1:5)
- C. Samaria (Northern Kingdom) will be destroyed (1:6)
  1. They are idolatrous (1:7)
- D. Jerusalem will also suffer (1:9)
- E. A list of locations is given at the end of Chapter 1, Aphrah, Saphir etc. and is a series of “puns” or “plays on words.”
  1. For example, Gath sounds like the Hebrew word for “tell” - hence, “declare [tell] it not in Gath” (like saying, “gath” it not in “gath”)
  2. Or, “house of Aphrah” meaning “house of dust.” - hence, roll in dust.
  3. It would be like an American preacher saying, Los Angeles is not a place of angels.
- F. The chapter ends with a reference to “the glory of Israel” (1:15)
- G. Chapter two begins with a declaration of Israel’s sins
  1. Immorality (2:1)
  2. Theft thru oppression (2:2)
- H. Chapter two concludes with the certainty of judgment - which is excellently described in the textbook by Ironside.

## **IV. A MESSAGE TO THE RULERS – CHAPTERS 3 and 4**

- A. A ruler should know judgment - Rulers are the audience in chapters 3 & 4 (3:1)
  1. That judgement is necessary for order
  2. That leaders must judge the people
  3. That they should have been leading the people to do right
- B. These rulers obviously do not (3:2) and the people suffer because of it
- C. Prayer will not be answered (3:4)
- D. Prophets (who are leaders also) will be useless (3:5-7)
- E. But, Micah is empowered by the LORD to prophecy (3:8)

- F. It is the fault of the rulers that Jerusalem will also be destroyed (3:9-12)
- G. A Vision of the last days (Chapter 4)
  - 1. Zion will be established (4:1)
  - 2. Nations will resort to Jerusalem for leadership (4:2)
  - 3. The LORD will judge from there (4:3)
  - 4. Idolatry will cease (4:5)
  - 5. The LORD will reign over Israel for ever (4:7)
- H. Babylonian captivity is foreseen over 100 years before it takes place (4:10)
- I. Zion will be victorious in the end (4:13)

**V. CHAPTER 5 - THE SMITTEN JUDGE**

- A. The Judge of Israel will be smitten (the Messiah) – (5:1)
- B. He will be born in Bethlehem (5:2)
- C. Jacob will be “given up” for a time (5:3)
- D. The Messiah’s greatness will extend to the ends of the earth (5:4)
- E. Verses 7 to 15 are a history of Israel
  - 1. Dispersed among nations (7-8)
  - 2. Victorious in the end (9-15) as God executes judgment on the heathen

**VI. THE LORD’S CONTROVERSY WITH HIS PEOPLE – CHAPTER 6**

- A. The prophet returns to the sins of the people in his day
- B. The LORD has a controversy (argument) with the people (2)
  - 1. It is not the LORD’s fault (3)
  - 2. The LORD should have been honored for His favor (4) and protection (5)
- C. Here is what God expects (6:8) - not sacrifice but . . .
  - 1. Justice
  - 2. Mercy
  - 3. Humility
- D. More sins detailed - this is the reason God has a controversy.
  - 1. Cheating in commerce (6:10-11)
  - 2. Deceit and lies (12)
- E. Judgment – no satisfaction (6:14); defeat (14); failed crops (15)

**VII. THE TRANSFORMATION OF ISRAEL – CHAPTER 7**

- A. The hopeless situation is detailed in verses 1 to 7
  - 1. There are no good men (2)
  - 2. They all take bribes (3)
  - 3. You cannot trust anyone (5)
- B. The only hope is in looking to the LORD (7)
- C. Israel shall arise (8) – after the punishment there will be resurrection (9)
- D. As the chapter continues, the restoration of Israel is clearly portrayed.
- E. 18 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.
- F. God promises to keep his covenant with Abraham (20) at the end of the book.

## H O M E W O R K

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What kingdom(s) (North, South, both) did Micah prophesy towards, and how do you know?
  
2. What years did Micah prophesy?
  
3. Where was Micah from, and how did this affect him?
  
4. What major prophet includes Micah's name and home town, and why was Micah cited in that major prophet?
  
5. How long was it between the beginning of Micah's prophecy and the destruction of the Northern Kingdom?
  
6. List the four sections of Micah, including the chapter numbers and the topic of those chapters.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  
7. What portion of Micah was quoted in Matthew chapter 2, by whom, and why?
  
8. What part of that prophecy in Micah is not yet fulfilled?

9. To what audience is the first two chapters of Micah written?
  
10. To what audience are the second two chapters written?
  
11. Other than His birthplace, what other Messianic prophecies appear in Micah?
  
12. In what way does chapter 7 follow a pattern of death, burial, and resurrection?
  
13. In Micah 7:20, what promise does God guarantee to keep, and who was that promise made to?
  
14. What does the Lord require of man? (Three things)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.