

MICAH BRIEF COMMENTARY


First Oracle (Chapters 1-2)

JUDGMENT (Micah 1:1-2:11)

1:1, Introduction

Micah the Morasthite. 25mi. SW of Jerusalem. During kings: Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah. See Jeremiah 26:18.

1:1-3, "Hear" Judgment is Coming

 The Lord summons His people to "hear" a message of coming judgment. The Lord will leave His holy temple which should be a place of blessing, but becomes a witness against them.

1:4-7, Judgment (Jerusalem & Samaria)

Because of idolatry, both Jerusalem and Samaria will be judged. When this judgment comes the mountains and valley will melt with fire. Their idols will become dust.

1:8-9, Micah Extreme Lament Naked

Micah will lament for Jerusalem. He will wail like the nocturnal jackals while stripped naked to show extreme mourning. He wails because of the judgment in v.4-7.

1:10-14, Coming Invasion by Assyria

Micah describes the coming invasion of the land by Assyria. The various cities addressed are from both Israel and Judah.

1:15-16, Children Will Be Taken

A conqueror will come upon Israel, and the people will flee to Adullam. Israel should shave its head in mourning because its precious children will be taken into captivity.

2:1-5, Reasons for the Judgment

The rich take the houses of the poor, and by violence take their land. The result is that this property will be taken from the rich by the foreign invader, so they are left with nothing.

2:6-7, The People are Self-Deceived

The people tell Micah not to prophesy such a negative message. Micah asks them whether the "spirit of the LORD" should be restricted. The people do not believe the Lord will do this to them because, in their minds, they walk uprightly.

2:8-11, Their Sin Makes Them Enemies

These sins have made the people like the enemy of YHWH. They have robbed the clothing from the peaceful, and women from their homes. The people will accept any "prophet" who advocates wine and strong drink.

SALVATION / HOPE (Micah 2:12-13)


2:12-13, The Lord's Remnant

Re-gathering. The same Lord who brought judgment will assemble "the remnant" in salvation and hope. The Lord will stop anything that would hinder their restoration.

Second Oracle (Chapters 3-5)

JUDGMENT (Micah 3)

3:1-4, The Lord Will Turn His Face

 Israel's leaders are condemned for their injustice especially against the poor. They hated good, and love evil. Instead of being shepherds who should protect the people, they became like wolves who "chop in pieces" their flesh for the caldron (large metal pot). When the calamity comes, the Lord turn His face from them.

3:5-7, False Prophets For Hire

The false "prophets" chant "peace" to those who pay them, and proclaim war upon those who do not. Thus, the Lord will withhold the knowledge of His will as they receive no answer.

3:8-12, Micah Empowered by God

Micah, in contrast with the false prophets, has been empowered with the "spirit of the LORD" and will be able to declare God's message to Israel and Judah (Jacob). The for-hire rulers, priests and prophets think they are safe. However, Jerusalem will be reduced to rubble.

SALVATION / HOPE (Micah 4-5)

4:1-4, Jerusalem Will Be Exalted

Jerusalem will be exalted. Gentile nations will come there to learn about the Lord. He will rule over all nations. There will be a world-wide disarmament (v.3). Peace and security will prevail (v.4).

4:5-8, Idolatry Versus Pure Worship

The idolatry of Micah's day is contrasted with the pure worship in the Millennial Kingdom. The Lord will reign as king as "first dominion" (v.8). That is, it will be the highest government on earth.

4:9-13, Judah Captivity, Future Blessing

In the meanwhile, Judah will go into captivity to Babylon. Also, prior to the restoration, the Lord will gather the nations to judge them. The Lord will use Israel as the instrument to punish them. Their wealth will be devoted to the "Lord of the whole earth" (v.13).

5:1, Israel at the Time of Micah

Describes the people in Micah's day who should prepare for the siege by the Babylonians. They will treat the king rudely. There are two possible options: (1) Sennacherib taunting Hezekiah; or (2) Nebuchadnezzar's humiliating Zedekiah.

5:2, The Eternal Promised One

This looks forward to the eternal Promised One. There are two Bethlehem towns, so Micah specifies which one (6 miles south of Jerusalem). This verse gives hope in light of the calamity of verse one.

5:3, History and Future of Israel

Micah outlines the history and future of Israel. (1) When Israel rejects its Messiah, it is "given up". This is the condition of Israel during the Church age. (2) Then there will be a time of "travail" known as the Tribulation Period. (3) After these pains, Israel gives birth. This is the believing remnant out of the unbelieving nation. This remnant will be gathered to the land, and their Messiah will rule over them.

5:4-6, The Assyrian Will Strike Jerusalem

The future "Assyrian" will strike Jerusalem. Seven shepherds and eight priestly men is poetic for an adequate number will withstand the Assyrian.

5:7-9, Israel as Channel of Blessing to the Nations

Israel will be a channel of blessing to all. She will be invincible as a lion able to crush God's adversaries.


5:10-15, In That Day Israel Purified

"In that day" Israel will be purified. It will no longer trust in horses and chariots (v.10), or fortified cities (v.11). Sorcerers and carved idols will be destroyed. Enemy nations will be judged by God's vengeance. He will remove those things that hinder their trust in God.

Third Oracle (Chapters 6-7)

JUDGMENT (Micah 6:1—7:6)

6:1-5, God's Case of Past Deliverance

 The mountains are called to serve as judges while God (prosecutor) states His case against Israel (the defendant). The Lord reminds them of His mercy when He delivered them from Egypt. He also prevented 6:1 Balak and Balaam from cursing them.

6:6-8, Justice, Mercy, and Humility

The Lord wants their hearts over burnt offerings (vs.6-7). The Most High wants to see justice, mercy, and humility (v.8).

6:9-12, Reasons For Calamity

The Lord tells them why this calamity will come upon them. They used false weights and measures, used violence to get their way, and spoke lies for their advantage.

6:13-16, Sin Has Consequences

Sin has consequences. God will not allow them to enjoy the things they obtained through dishonesty. The "statutes of Omri" (v.16) was well know for idolatry (1Ki.16:25-26).

7:1-2, Faithful and Upright Removed

The city is stripped of faithful and upright men. Violence and murder abound. This sad condition is compared to gleaning vintage grapes where no cluster to eat is found.

7:3-6, Rulers and Judges Judged

The rulers and judges ask for bribes. Friends, family, and neighbors betray one another. Their punishment is near.

SALVATION / HOPE (Micah 7:7-20)

7:7-10, Salvation Though They Sin

Though they will soon be judged, do not rejoice over that. This calamity is the result of their sin. However, the Lord will restore His own to the dismay of their enemies.

7:11-12, Jerusalem Will Be Extended

Micah now addresses Jerusalem. Her walls and boundaries will be extended. The exiled ones will return from the land of their captors. The unbelieving nations will be punished for their wickedness.

7:13, The Nations Judged by Their Deeds

Just prior to the promised restoration, the nations will be judged because of their "doings" (Mt.25:32-33,46).

7:14-17, Prayer For God To Protect

This is a prayer to God to provide and protect His people. The Lord will bless them so much that the Gentiles nations be ashamed and bow low before Him.

7:18-20, Micah: Song of Praise

Micah closes with a song of praise to God. He praises Him for His mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and steadfast love.

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