

Old Testament Survey
Micah

Introduction

- Micah was an 8th century prophet who lived in Moreshath located 25 miles south west of Jerusalem. While Isaiah was a sophisticated older prophet whose ministry centered on the Kings of Judah, Micah was a simple country preacher whose audience was the people of Judah.
- The book is a collection of three primary messages preached by Micah. Each sermon is marked by the word *hear* (1:2; 3:1; 6:1).
- There are three primary features that characterize the sermons of Micah:
 1. Message of judgment on the nations of Assyria and Babylon because of their pride and wickedness.
 2. Message of discipline on the nation of Judah. The Southern Kingdom was just as wicked as the Northern Kingdom and God's judgment would be swift and sure.

The Mosaic Covenant was the standard of discipline. Faithfulness to the covenant brought blessings (Deut 28:1-14); unfaithfulness would lead to expulsion from the land (Deut 28:15-68).

3. Message of a remnant who would experience the promise of restoration with the arrival of the Messiah.

Micah 4:1-5; 5:2

- Micah is referred to in the book of Jeremiah (Jer 3:12) and quoted twice in the New Testament (Matt 2:5-6; Matt 10:35-36).

Key Text

*With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:6-8** (NIV)*

Old Testament Survey
Nahum

Introduction

- Little is known of Micah whose name means comfort. His ministry context is during the days when the Assyrian Empire is the dominate world power.
- The book of Nahum has been called “the hymn of hate” because of its vindictive nature against Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian Empire.

Nineveh was founded by Nimrod (Gen 10:11-12) and had a long history of idolatry, pride and cruelty against its enemies.

“A pyramid of heads I reared in front of his city. Their youths and their maidens I burnt up in the flames.” –Shalmaneser II

“I cut their throats like lambs. I cut off their precious lives as one cuts a string. Like the many waters of a storm I made the contents of their gullets and entrails run down upon wide earth...their hands I cut off.”

-Sennacherib

“I pierced his chin with my keen hand dagger. Through his jaw...I passed a rope, put a dog chain upon him, and made him occupy...a kennel.”

-Ashurbanipal

“I am powerful, I am all powerful, I am a hero, I am gigantic, I am colossal, I am honored, I am magnified, I am without equal among all kings, the chosen one of Asshur, Nabu, and Marduk.” –Esarhaddon

- The oracles (prophetic word) of Micah were given to the Southern Kingdom as a word of encouragement in the face of evil. Nineveh would be judged for her sin and the Lord would have the last word against evil.

“Nineveh will be judged not because it is Judah’s enemy but because it is God’s enemy. Anyone who flaunts self in proud rebellion against God--Judah as well as Nineveh—will eventually face divine judgment.” –Heflin (NAC, Vol 20, p. 152)

Ex. Assyria, Nazi Germany, Babylon in Revelation chapter 18, USA