

## Lesson 9 – Micah

Text: Micah

Key Passages:

- Micah 3:11 – The people lived evil lives, but still thought that God would be with them.
- Micah 6:8 – God only requires that His people do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

Background Information:

Micah was a prophet sent to both Israel and Judah, though his prophecies dealt predominantly with Judah and its potential fate. He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Micah 1:1), who were the last 3 kings of Judah in the Divided Kingdom time period. Some of the lessons contained in Micah were also given in Amos, which was predominantly for Israel, including the condemnation of vain and empty worship to God while living completely immoral and idolatrous lives.

Outline:

- I. Purpose: to condemn the sins of God’s people (especially Judah’s) and to prophesy of both the physical (from Babylon) and spiritual (through Jesus) deliverances that would come in the future
- II. Judgment Pronounced Upon Israel and Judah (1-3)
  - a. God’s power will soon be evident when He comes in judgment against His people (1:2-5)
  - b. Great, unavoidable judgment was about to come upon Israel for its evil deeds (1:6-9a)
  - c. The fate of Israel was soon to come upon Judah as well (1:9ff)
  - d. The wealthy class of oppressors are condemned (2:1-5)
  - e. The prophets who were trying to prophesy for God were rebuked and silenced (2:6)
  - f. The evil rulers of Judah were condemned for all of their corruption and wickedness (3:1-4)
  - g. The prophets were all corrupt as well; there would be no more visions for them (3:5ff)
  - h. Even the priests were corrupt, teaching for bribes (3:11)
  - i. Despite all of their sin, they believed that they were safe because God was with them (3:12)
- III. Future Exaltation of God’s People (4-5)
  - a. Physically, a remnant would eventually return to the land from Babylon (4:10)
  - b. The greater prophecy here is with regards to the ultimate spiritual deliverance from sin that would come in the future, through the Messiah, Jesus
  - c. The birth place of Jesus, Bethlehem, is prophesied (Micah 5:2)
- IV. God and Israel in a Controversy (6)
  - a. This chapter is laid out as a trial, or conversation, between God and His people
  - b. God contended that His people were disobedient and evil, despite His blessings (6:1-5)
  - c. The people contended that they did not know how to please God (if it were possible) (6:6-7)
  - d. God told the people they simply needed to do 3 things: do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord (6:8)
  - e. God highlighted many of the sins that were being committed in Judah, including violence, injustice, and the return of the Baals (6:9ff)
- V. The Way of Salvation (7)
  - a. Micah lamented that there were no good people left in the land (7:2-6)
  - b. As a result, he could only look to the Lord and wait for His salvation (7:7ff)

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) If we worship God while still living sinful lives, we are still unacceptable to Him (Matthew 6:24).
- 2.) God does not ask for things which we cannot give; He requires our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).