

# *Micah*

## *"What Does God Require?"*

### **Background Information**

Micah is a shortened version of Micaiah, a name that also appears in the Old Testament. The name means "Who is a God like you?"

Other than what is found in this book, we know virtually nothing about this Micah. His location (Moresheth), as well as some of the prophecies, indicate that he spoke on behalf of some of the "country" members of the kingdom, rather than those in the city of Jerusalem.

He speaks exclusively to the southern kingdom.

### **Time Covered and Outline**

Micah states that his ministry occurred during the reigns of three kings: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Since he specifically mentions that Samaria will fall, the contents of this book occur before 722 BC and likely between 735 and 710 BC.

- I. God Gathers to Judge and to Deliver (1-2)
  - A. Samaria and Judah Punished (1:2-16)
  - B. Oppressors Judges (2:1-5)
  - C. False Prophets Renounced (2:6-11)
  - D. A Promise of Deliverance (2:12-13)
- II. God Judges the Rulers (3-5)
  - A. Leaders are Guilty (3)
  - B. A Leader is Coming who will Bring Ultimate Deliverance (4-5)
- III. God Brings both Charges and Deliverance (6-7)
  - A. Reproof and Lament (6:1-7:6)
  - B. Confidence and Victory (7:7-20)

### **Major Themes**

Judgment of sin

A reminder of covenant

Deliverance

## God's Character in Micah

Patient (7:1)  
Merciful (7:18-20)  
Providence (5:2)  
Righteous (6:4-5)  
True (7:20)  
Wrathful (7:9-11)

## Jesus in Micah

This book is highly Messianic, including a specific prophecy of the birthplace of Jesus as Bethlehem (5:2; see Matthew 2:6). Micah 7:6 is also used by Jesus to speak of the nature of His coming (see Matthew 10:35-36).

## Key Words in Micah

Complaint (Hebrew *rib*); "dispute" or "quarrel." 6:2  
Compassion (Hebrew *raham*); "to love from the womb." 7:19

## Elsewhere in the World...

Celtic people from what is today known as Scotland travel south and begin to settle in the greater part of what is today known as Britain.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Micah tells the times of the kings during which he prophesied, but the specific prophecy he gives likely falls during the reign of Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28; 1 Kings 16).

He is also a contemporary with Isaiah, likely falling in the earlier chapters of that book, soon after Isaiah records his vision of the temple (Isaiah 6).