

8 Studies on the Book of Micah

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MICAH: A BRIEF BACKGROUND

ABRAHAM

Called by God to be the father
of a special godly nation



ABRAHAM'S FAMILY

Now headed by Jacob, his grandson
whose name is changed to Israel –
moves to Egypt (where Joseph is) and becomes
a large tribe – the ISRAELITES



MOSES leads the Israelites out of EGYPT, back to CANAAN (1290 BC)



Settled in Canaan, under Joshua's leadership, the
Israelites are led by a series of prophet-judges, the last of
whom is Samuel. The Israelites ask Samuel to appoint a king
so that they will be like the surrounding nations.



KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

(1040 BC)



SAUL



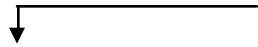
DAVID

Under him Israel becomes a strong nation



SOLOMON

Kingdom divides
925 BC



KINGDOM OF JUDAH

(Capital Jerusalem)



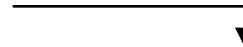
**MICAH
PREACHES**



Defeated by Babylon, Judah
becomes a Persian province



← To Babylon as captives
586 BC (Some flee to Egypt)



KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

(Capital – Samaria)



Defeated by Assyria
Israel becomes an
Assyrian state



to Assyria
721 BC



2. Background Events

- a) Leading up to Micah's time we need to understand some of the events that shaped Micah's world. First, God's word through Micah refers to some past promises of God. Read the last two verses of Micah (7:19-20). To whom had God made promises years before?
- b) **Read Genesis 12:1-3.** What did God promise Abram? (later called Abraham)
- c) What is the significance of each of the following (from 1:1), given God's promises to Abraham?
- i) Jerusalem
 - ii) Samaria
 - iii) Judah

(It may help to look over the background chart in your study book).

d) For much of the time Micah spoke, Ahaz was King of Judah.

Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-8. What sort of King was Ahaz and what sort of things happened during his reign?

3. To Finish

a) Micah's name means "Who is like the Lord?" What strikes you about God, from the passages you have read? How is this aspect of God's character also seen in Jesus?

b) **Pray** about what you have learnt through this study.

“The God Who Acts”

1. Getting Started

“God just started the universe running and left it be. He doesn’t get involved now”. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

2. Micah’s Message

a) **Read Micah 1:1-7.** From vs 3 and 4, how is God’s “coming” described? Why do you think this language is used?

b) Why is God coming (v5)?

c) What is he going to do (v6-7)?

d) **Read 1:8-16.** What is Micah’s response to God’s word (v8)?

e) How does Micah advise the people of the various towns of Judah to respond (v9-16)? Why are his words so appropriate?

f) What was wrong with Israel's * view of God? Discuss?

* Note: the term *Israel* is often used by Micah in the traditional sense of all of God's people – both Judah and the Northern Kingdom (also called Israel).

3. Moving Forward

a) Can you see any similarities between our situation and that of God's people in Micah's time? What are they?

b) Read John 3:16-21. In what way has God acted to confront people in Jesus? Discuss.

4. **Pray**, giving thanks that God does care enough to intervene in human affairs.

Study 3

(for week beginning 27th October)

“The Prophets of Beer”

1. Getting Started

“I like to think of God as”

How would most of your neighbours and friends finish this sentence? Discuss.

2. Micah’s Message

a) **Read Micah 2:1-5.** What is it that fills the waking thoughts of the Israelites?

b) How is their coming judgement appropriate?

c) What warning is there for us in these verses?

d) **Read Micah 2:6-13.** What do the people reject in Micah’s prophecy (v6-7)?

e) What do Micah's countrymen think God will give them (v6, 11)?

f) What has actually happened as a result of their actions (v10)?

g) What hope is offered by God (V12-13)?

3. Moving Forward

a) What pressures to compromise the message do you feel when you speak about Jesus?

b) **Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5.** What pressures do you think pastors, evangelists and Bible teachers feel today? How can we help our leaders not to bow to pressure?

4. **Pray**, asking God to keep us safe from the sort of leaders who will lead us to destruction. Ask God to help our pastors to be faithful.

“When Leaders Fail”

1. Getting Started

List a few of the privileges that belong to the person who calls Jesus “Lord”.

2. Micah’s Message

a) **Read Micah 3:1-12.** What were the leaders of Israel and Judah confident about (v4, 11)? Why did they feel confident, do you think?

b) List the main things these leaders were doing wrong. Why do you think they behaved in these ways?

c) What does the Lord say he will do to the leaders, and the nation? Why?

- e) Now, before this time of great hope, a terrible calamity will befall God's people. **Read Micah 4:9-13.**
Where are the people of Jerusalem going to end up (v10)? Why?

3. Moving Forward

- a) Look again at your diagram showing Israel's history. When did the exile to Babylon occur? What does this show about Micah's words?

- b) Micah spoke of a day when people from all nations would come to learn from God (4:1-5). How is this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus? Discuss.

4. **Pray**, thanking God that his word is reliable. Also, thank him for what he has achieved in Jesus.

e) What sort of ruler will he be, and what will this mean for God's people (v4)?

3. Moving Forward

a) **Read Matthew 2:1-6.** Why would Herod be disturbed by Micah's prophecy?

b) Why was it important that Jesus was born in Bethlehem (see 1 Samuel 16:1, 17:12)?

c) How do you think Jesus fulfills Micah 5:3-5?

4. **Pray**, thanking God for fulfilling his age old plans in Jesus.

5. **If you have time, read Micah 5:5-15.** The looming Babylonian threat to Israel (Judah) is probably on view in v1-5, but in v5b-15 the more imminent Assyrian threat is addressed.

a) What will happen to the “remnant of Jacob” (v5-9)?

b) How will God’s judgement change the character of his people (v10-15)?

c) How will it affect other nations, if at all? Discuss.

“A Call to Remember”

1. Getting Started

Do you ever feel that what God requires is a bit of a burden? What is it that makes you feel that way? Why?

2. Micah’s Message

- a) **Read Micah 6:1-8.** What is God calling on Israel to do and why (v13)?

- b) God calls on Israel to “remember”. From v3-5 what has God done for Israel? (Which of these events are you familiar with?)

- c) What has Israel mistakenly offered God, and why have they done that (v6-7)?

- d) What does God want more than sacrifice? What would Israel need to stop doing, or begin to do, to fulfil this?

3. Moving Forward

a) If we as Christians feel obeying God has become a burden, what act of His might he call on **us** to remember (v5)?

b) Micah 6:8 is still a good summary of what God wants his people to do. As Christians, we have God's Holy Spirit to enable us. What would the instruction of 6:8 look like, if you put it into practice in your life this week? What might you do differently (be specific)?

4. **Pray**, thank God for his mercy to us in Jesus, ask him to enable us to show mercy.

5. **If you have time, read Micah 6:9-16.**

a) How has Israel failed to show mercy and justice?

b) Who has led them in this (v16)?

c) Why is this inappropriate for God's people (6:4-5)?

d) What will be the result?

e) Can we avoid Israel's errors? How? Discuss.

“Living Under God’s Promise”**1. Getting Started**

Acts of kindness can be powerful things. Can you think of a time when someone has treated you with kindness? What did they do and how did you feel? Discuss.

2. Micah’s Message

- a) **Read Micah 7:1-7.** Why is Micah feeling miserable (v1) and what does he decide to do (v7)?

- b) Read **Micah 7:8-13.** It seems that Micah is speaking on behalf of Israel to her enemies. How does he understand Israel’s situation (see especially v8)?

- c) Micah then speaks to God about what is to come. Read Micah 7:14-20. Summarise, from v14-17, what Micah expects God to do.

- d) List the things Micah says about God’s character in v18-20;
 - i)
 - ii)

iii)

iv)

v)

- e) How do you think this reminder of what God is like might help Micah and the people of Israel as they suffer? Discuss.

3. **Moving Forward**

- a) In what ways can these aspects of God's character be seen in Jesus? Be specific.

- b) How might this help us today?

- c) If we feel we fail at times to live up to God's call to be holy, what parts of Micah 7:18-20 can help us? How?

4. **Pray**, in response to what you have learnt from the Book of Micah.

Prayer Points

Praying for people who don't know Christ yet

Group member	Praying for...
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.
	1. 2. 3.



Father God, we praise you for your love for all people and for sending Jesus to be the Saviour of the world.

Help us to share this love with others.

We pray for the people of our city and beyond.

By your Spirit prepare their hearts to respond to your Word and put their trust in you.

As we connect with them, may they connect with you and find the joy of sins forgiven and life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

KEY EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Term 4, 2008 | Pray about “connecting” |
| 2. 20-22 Feb 2009 | All Parish Houseparty @ Deer Park |
| 3. Term 1, 2009 | “Equipping for Service” |
| 4. Term 2, 2009 | “Connecting” |
| 5. Term 4, 2009 | “Outreach” |

