

# STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

## *MICAH*

### OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

Title: Author and date of Micah's Labors, 1:1

I. Judgment on Samaria and Judah - salvation of a remnant, chapters 1,2.

- . Judgment on Samaria and judgment on Judah, 1:2-16.
  1. Samaria - her destruction, vv. 2-7.
    - a. General announcement of judgment, vv. 2-4.
    - b. Destruction of Samaria, vv. 5-7.
  2. Lament over the destruction of Judah, vv. 8-16.
- . Causes that make the judgment inevitable, 2:1-11.
  1. Arrogance and violence of the nobles, vv. 1-5.
  2. False prophets who would silence the true prophet, vv. 6-11.
- . Eventual restoration of a remnant, 2:12,13.

II. Contrast between present devastation and future exaltation, chs. 3-5.

- . The sins and crimes of the heads of the nation, ch. 3.
  1. Civil rulers - outrages committed by them, vv. 1-4.
  2. False prophets - condemnation of their mercenary practices, vv. 5-8.
  3. Rulers, prophets, and priests - renewed condemnation, vv. 9-12.
    - a. The accusation against them, vv. 9-11.
    - b. Consequence: Jerusalem to be plowed as a field, v.12.
- . The Messianic hope in contrast to present destruction, chs. 4,5.
  1. The glory of the latter days, 4:1-8.
    - a. The glorification of Zion - the center of universal religion of Jehovah, vv. 1-5.
    - b. The restoration of "the former dominion" - healing of the dispersed, vv. 6-8.
  2. Distress and captivity before restoration, "now," 4:9-5:1.
    - a. Distress - into Babylon before restoration, 4:9,10.
    - b. Deliverance of Zion and destruction of the enemy - Jehovah's purpose, 4:11-5:1.
  3. The Messiah and the Messianic era, 5:2-15.
    - a. The Messiah who shall arise out of Bethlehem, shall feed the flock, vv. 2-4.
    - b. The Messiah to be the peace of His people, vv. 5,6.
    - c. The Messiah provides power to His people, vv. 7-9.
      - (1) The remnant to be as dew among the peoples, v.7.
      - (2) To be as a lion, v.8.
      - (3) To triumph over their enemies, v.9.
    - d. In this strength and power Israel is to triumph, vv. 10-15.

III. Jehovah and Israel in controversy (judicial contest) - the way to salvation, chs. 6,7.

- . The case against Israel, ch. 6.
  1. Israel's ingratitude for blessings bestowed, vv. 1-5.
  2. Not outward sacrifice, but righteous conduct, is God's requirement, vv. 6-8.
  3. Jehovah's threat of judgment - denunciation of prevalent crimes, vv. 9-16.
- . Penitential prayer and divine promise, ch. 7.
  1. Confession of the nation's guilt (people, or prophet), vv. 1-6.
  2. Confession of faith - prayer of the penitent, vv. 7-13.

3. Prayer for renewal of grace, v. 14; and the Lord's answer, vv. 15-17.
4. Doxology: praise to Jehovah who alone is God, vv. 18-20.

## INFORMATION ON THE BOOK

### DATE WRITTEN

Some have suggested that the book was written as early as 735 B.C. or as late as 700 B.C.. Micah began to prophesy before the destruction of Samaria (in 1:5 it appears that the city still stood when he wrote), and into the reign of Hezekiah (king of the southern kingdom of Judah) according to Jeremiah 26:18. Some believe that it is probable that Micah wrote this book after the Assyrian conquest of Damascus (734-732 B.C.) So they place the date of writing closer to 733 B.C..

### MAIN THEME

Main theme of the book is that God will send judgment for Judah's sin, but pardon is still offered. The message emphasizes the two divine attributes cited in Romans 11:22a: "consider the goodness and severity of God."

### PROPHECIES NOW FULFILLED

There are six specific prophecies of Micah which have become events of history. They are:

- a) fall of Samaria, 722 B.C. (1:6,7)
- b) invasion of Judah by Sennacherib, 702-701 B.C. (1:9-16)
- c) fall of Jerusalem, 586 B.C. (3:12; 7:13)
- d) exile in Babylon, 586 B.C. (4:10)
- e) return from captivity, c. 520 B.C. (4:1-8,13; 7:11,14-17)
- f) birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (5:2)

### LITERARY FORMS

Word pictures abound in the book. Contrasts are prominent (e.e., 3:9-12 and 4:1-5), and questions appear often (1:5; 2:7; 4:9; 6:3,7,10,11; 7:10,18). Compare the first question (1:5) and the last (7:18).

### QUOTED IN THE BIBLE

Micah is quoted three times in other parts of the Bible. Each time, the occasion is significant. Read each of them carefully, and note the **EVENT** which occasioned the quotation:

Jeremiah 26:18 - Micah 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Matthew 2:5,6 - Micah 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Matthew 10:35,36 - Micah 7:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## QUESTIONS ON THE BOOK OF MICAH

Title: Author and date of Micah's Labors, 1:1

1. What does the name Micah mean, literally and how is that meaning related to the main theme of the book? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Referring to the chart provided with this lesson, what kings and prophets were living during Micah's time? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the time Micah prophesied, and what effect might this have on his work with Judah? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. The **shaded** names of kings on the chart indicate that they were evil reigns. On this basis, what was the nature of the kings who ruled Judah and Israel during the lifetime of Micah? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I. Judgment on Samaria and Judah - salvation of a remnant, chapters 1,2.
  - . Judgment on Samaria and judgment on Judah, 1:2-16.
    1. Samaria - her destruction, vv. 2-7.
      - a. General announcement of judgment, vv. 2-4.
5. Discuss the terminology used to describe the way in which God was to come in judgment upon them. 1:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- . Destruction of Samaria, vv. 5-7.
6. Which verse of the first chapter clearly tells us the cause of this divine judgment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was to happen to Samaria? 1:6,7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Lament over the destruction of Judah, vv. 8-16.

8. Keeping in mind what God taught concerning modesty in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:21), how are we to understand the idea of going "stripped and naked, and what is the reason for this action? 1:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

9. In verses 10-15 of Chapter one, ten cities located near where the prophet lived are used to emphasize the seriousness of the coming punishment on Judah. Their appears to be a play on the *names* of these cities. Below you will find the definitions from Strong's Concordance and various other sources for each of the names. From this and whatever sources you have, consider the meanings and show how they are being used in the context.

1036. Beyth l@-<Aphrah {bayth le-af-raw'}; from 1004 and the feminine of 6083 (with preposition interposed); **house to (i.e. of) dust**; Beth-le-Aphrah, a place in Palestine: -house of Aphrah. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8208. Shaphiyr {shaf-eer'}; from 8231; **beautiful**; Shaphir, a place in Palestine: -Saphir. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6630. Tsa'anan {tsah-an-awn'}; from the same as 6629 used denominatively; sheep pasture; Zaanan, a place in Palestine: -Zaanan. "**outlet, march.**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1018. Beyth ha->etsel {bayth haw-ay'-tsel}; from 1004 and 681 with the article interposed; house of the side; Beth-ha-Etsel, a place in Palestine: -Beth-ezel. "**neighbor**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4796. Marowth {maw-roth'}; plural of 4751 feminine; **bitter springs**; Maroth, a place in Palestine: -Maroth. "**bitterness**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3923. Lachiysh {law-keesh'}; from an unused root of uncertain meaning; Lakish, a place in Palestine: -Lachish. "The paronomasia here is the similarity of sound (in the Hebrew) between **chariot and Lachish.**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4182. Mowresheth Gath {mo-reh'-sheth gath}; from 3423 and 1661; **possession** of Gath; Moresbeth-Gath, a place in Palestine: -Moresbeth-gath. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

392. >Akziyb {ak-zeeb'}; from 391; **deceitful** (in the sense of a winter-torrent which fails in summer); Akzib, the name of two places in Palestine: --Achzib. "**false, lying-fountain**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4762. Mar>eshah {mar-ay-shaw'}; or Mareshah {mar-ay-shaw'}; formed like 4761; summit; Mareshah, the name of two Israelites and of a place in Palestine: -Mareshah. "**heir, hereditary**" \_

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5725. 'Adullam {ad-ool-lawm'}; probably from the passive participle of the same as 5724; Adullam, a place in Palestine: -Adullam. "**the wild beast's cave, refuge**" \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What is the significance of the last line in 1:16, and how does "baldness" relate to this? \_\_\_\_\_

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- . Causes that make the judgment inevitable, 2:1-11.
  1. Arrogance and violence of the nobles, vv. 1-5.

11. The wickedness described in 2:1 is especially evil - why? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What kind of evil is described in 2:2 and does this still happen? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. How does God describe that which is store for Judah, and what would happen to their heritage? 2:3-5

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2. False prophets who would silence the true prophet, vv. 6-11.

14. According to verses 6 & 11, what kind of a prophet did the people of Judah want? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. How does the Lord rebuke them? 2:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_

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- . Eventual restoration of a remnant, 2:12,13.

16. Who was to be assembled and to what are they likened? 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Identify "the breaker," "their king," and "the Lord" in 2:13. \_\_\_\_\_  
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II. Contrast between present devastation and future exaltation, chs. 3-5.

- . The sins and crimes of the heads of the nation, ch. 3.
  - 1. Civil rulers - outrages committed by them, vv. 1-4.

18. To whom are the first four verses of Chapter three addressed; of what are they accused; what will be the results? 3:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 2. False prophets - condemnation of their mercenary practices, vv. 5-8.

19. To whom are verses 5-8 of Chapter three addressed; what will be the results; what is the purpose of verse 8? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Rulers, prophets, and priests - renewed condemnation, vv. 9-12.
  - a. The accusation against them, vv. 9-11.
  - b. Consequence: Jerusalem to be plowed as a field, v.12.

20. Enumerate the sins listed for the rulers, prophets and priests and explain each. 3:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. What would happen to Zion and Jerusalem? 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- . The Messianic hope in contrast to present destruction, chs. 4,5.
  - 1. The glory of the latter days, 4:1-8.
    - a. The glorification of Zion - the center of universal religion of Jehovah, vv. 1-5.

22. The first five verses of Chapter four are pointing to the kingdom of Messiah. Consider each of the terms used to describe His kingdom and be prepared to discuss them in class. 4:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

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23. Looking at the chart which you received with this lesson, what do you notice about Micah and Isaiah? With this in mind, compare Isaiah 2:1-4 with Micah 4:1-3. How are they alike/different?

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b. The restoration of "the former dominion" - healing of the dispersed, vv. 6-8.

24. To what does "that day" refer in 4:6, and what would take place? 4:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2. Distress and captivity before restoration, "now," 4:9-5:1.
  - a. Distress - into Babylon before restoration, 4:9,10.

25. How is "now" contrasted with "that day" in verse six? 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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26. To what is the daughter of Zion likened, and what was to happen to her? 4:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Deliverance of Zion and destruction of the enemy - Jehovah's purpose, 4:11-5:1.

27. What is the meaning of the harvest picture in 4:11-13, and what does this mean for Judah and Syria?

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28. Explain the significance of the troops and the rod on the cheek in 5:1. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 3. The Messiah and the Messianic era, 5:2-15.
  - a. The Messiah who shall arise out of Bethlehem, shall feed the flock, vv. 2-4.

29. To what notable event does 5:2 point, and what does it tell us about that event? \_\_\_\_\_  
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30. Who is it that travails in 5:3? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

31. How is the promised One pictured in 5:4? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

b. The Messiah to be the peace of His people, vv. 5,6.

32. Show how 5:5 relates to Isaiah 9:6 and Ephesians 2:14. \_\_\_\_\_  
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33. Harmonize the thoughts in 5:6 with those in 5:5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- c. The Messiah provides power to His people, vv. 7-9.
  - (1) The remnant to be as dew among the peoples, v.7.

34. What is meant by the "dew" and "showers" here with regard to the remnant of Jacob? 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- (2) To be as a lion, v.8.

35. Explain the meaning of the "lion" in 5:8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- (3) To triumph over their enemies, v.9.

36. What is the significance of the hand being lifted and the cutting off in 5:9? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- d. In this strength and power Israel is to triumph, vv. 10-15.

37. What is "that day" in 5:10, and what will happen at that time? 5:10-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
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III. Jehovah and Israel in controversy (judicial contest) - the way to salvation, chs. 6,7.

- . The case against Israel, ch. 6.
  - 1. Israel's ingratitude for blessings bestowed, vv. 1-5.

38. What part do the mountains and hills play in this controversy between God and Israel? 6:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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39. Of what does God remind them? 6:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Not outward sacrifice, but righteous conduct, is God's requirement, vv. 6-8.

40. Does this imply that God did not require any sacrifices from the people? 6:6,7 {See also here 1 Samuel 15:22,23} \_\_\_\_\_  
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41. Enumerate the three things which God had shown them to be good, and explain each. 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Jehovah's threat of judgment - denunciation of prevalent crimes, vv. 9-16.

42. What specific crimes does God cite them for, and what does He say will happen to them as a result of their crimes? 6:9-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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. Penitential prayer and divine promise, ch. 7.

1. Confession of the nation's guilt (people, or prophet), vv. 1-6.

43. Who is pictured as speaking in 7:1? \_\_\_\_\_  
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44. What is the purpose of the admissions of guilt in 7:2-6? \_\_\_\_\_  
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45. Does the situation described in 7:1-6 remind you of anything? \_\_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Confession of faith - prayer of the penitent, vv. 7-13.

46. Who is speaking in 7:7? \_\_\_\_\_  
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47. What confidence is expressed in these verses and who is portrayed as the ultimate victor in this setting? 7:7-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Prayer for renewal of grace, v. 14; and the Lord's answer, vv. 15-17.

48. Who is the Shepherd mentioned, and what is the significance of Carmel, Bashan and Gilead? 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
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49. How will the nations react to the things God will do for the remnant of His people, and what is meant by each? 7:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Doxology: praise to Jehovah who alone is God, vv. 18-20.

50. How does the first phrase of 7:18 relate to the prophet who penned this book? \_\_\_\_\_  
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51. There are TEN things the prophet says that God does with regard to the remnant. What are they? 7:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
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