

Purpose

To warn God's people of judgment and to offer pardon to all who repent

Meaning of Name

"Who is like Jehovah?"

Date Written

During the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (742-687 BC)

Setting

2 Kings 15-20 and *2 Chronicles 26-30*. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.

Key Verse

"No, people, the Lord has already told you what is good, and this is what He requires: to do right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." *Micah 6:8*

Key People

Jews and Samaritans

Key Places

Samaria, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem

Special Features

This is a beautiful example of classical Hebrew poetry. There are three parts, each beginning with "Attention!" or "Listen" (*1:2; 3:1; 6:1*) and closing with a promise.

An Overview (7 Chapters)

- Trial of the Capitals (*1:1-2:13*)
- Trial of the Leaders (*3:1-5:15*)
- Trial of the People (*6:1-7:20*)

Major Themes

- *Perverting Faith*: God will judge the false prophets, dishonest leaders, and selfish priests, in Israel and Judah. While they publicly carried out religious ceremonies, they were privately seeking to gain money and influence. To mix selfish motives with an empty display of religion is to pervert faith.
- *Oppression*: Micah predicted ruin for all nations and leaders who were oppressive toward others. The upper classes oppressed and exploited the poor. Yet no one was speaking against them or doing anything to stop them. God will not put up with such injustice. We dare not ask God to help us while we ignore those who are needy and oppressed.
- *The Messiah — King of Peace*: God promised to provide a new king to bring strength and peace to His people. Hundreds of years before Christ's birth, God promised that the eternal King would be born in Bethlehem. It was God's great plan to restore His people through the Messiah.
- *Pleasing God*: Micah preached that God's greatest desire was not the offering of sacrifices at the Temple. God delights in faith that produces justice, love for others, and obedience to Him.