

# Micah

**Purpose:** Judah and Israel will face judgment because of their sin; but restoration will come to a remnant.

**Outline:** 1:1 – Title

1:2-2:13 – Prophetic announcements of judgment and hope to the people

3:1-5:15 – Prophetic announcements of judgment and hope to the leaders

6:1-7:20 – Prophetic announcements of judgment and hope to the nation

**Author:** Micah

**Date:** The last half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century (contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea)

## Highlights:

Micah was a prophet from Judah, a contemporary of Isaiah.

He prophesied during the days of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Micah's ministry came during the Assyrian crisis. He witnessed the events that brought about the destruction and deportation of the northern kingdom of Israel (see especially chapter 3). He also witnessed Sennacherib's (Assyrian king) Invasion of Jerusalem in 701 B.C.

These crises come at the end of a period in which the Israelites and Judahites enjoyed enormous prosperity. Now the agrarian segment of society often found itself at the mercy of the merchants, who seemed to enjoy monarchical support. Equity in the marketplace was rarely found. It was against this social backdrop that Micah denounced injustice and false religiosity.

He is one of the few prophets who is referred to specifically in another prophetic book. When Jeremiah was threatened with death for his prophecies of doom against Jerusalem, he was spared by elders who reminded the people that Micah had prophesied the same more than one hundred years earlier (Jeremiah 26:18-19). This gives some indication of the prominence of Micah as a spokesman for the Lord.

Each of the three sections is a modified lawsuit (as we have seen in the other prophets).

### *Modified lawsuit against God's people (1:2-2:13)*

Judgment against Samaria and Jerusalem (1:2-16) {NOTE: Samaria is the capital of the north. Jerusalem is the capital of the south}

Summons (1:2)

Announcement of Sentence (1:3-4)

Accusation (1:5)

Sentence (1:6-7)

Call to Lament (1:8-16)

Judgment against wealthy landowners (2:1-13)

Accusation (2:1-2)

Sentence (2:3-4)

Micah talks about the complaints of false prophets (2:6-7a)

God's response (2:7b-11)

Oracle of Salvation (2:12-13)

### *Modified lawsuit against the leaders (3:1-5:15)*

Judgment against leaders (3:1-4)

Summons (3:1)

Accusation (3:2-3)

Sentence (3:4)

Judgment against false prophets (3:5-12)

Accusation (3:5)

Sentence (3:6-7)

Micah defends himself as a true prophet (3:8)

Summons (3:9a)

Accusation (3:9b-11)

Sentence (3:12)

Oracles and Visions concerning the current crises (4:1-13)

Oracle of Salvation (4:1-5) [The first salvation oracle refers to the post-exilic restoration]  
Oracle of Salvation (4:6-8) [This second salvation oracle refers to the Messianic restoration]  
Vision against Judah (4:9-10)  
Vision against enemies of Judah (4:11-13)  
Oracles and Visions concerning a deliverer (5:1-15)  
Oracle of Judgment (5:1)  
Vision of deliverer (5:2)  
Oracle of Judgment (5:3)  
Vision of deliverer (5:4-5a)  
Oracle of Salvation under the deliverer (5:5b-9)  
Cleansing of God's Holy Nation (5:10-14)  
Cutting off of pagan nations (5:15)  
*Modified lawsuit against the nation (6:1-7:20)*  
Judgment against Israel (6:1-16)  
Summons (6:1-2)  
Accusation (6:3-8)  
    The benevolence of God (6:3-5)  
    Israel seeks to appease God through ritual sacrifice (6:6-7)  
    God declares right conduct for Israel (6:8)  
Summons (6:9)  
Accusation (6:10-12)  
Sentence (6:13-15)  
Accusation (6:16a)  
Sentence (6:16b)  
From misery...to salvation (7:1-20)  
Micah's misery (7:1-7)  
Israel's misery and hope (7:8-10)  
Micah's hope (7:11-14)  
God's promise (7:15)  
Oracle of Salvation (7:16-20)