

# Micah of Moresheth

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: Micah 6:8 - "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"

- A. The age of prophets: the eighth century (800-700 B.C.) was one of the five great periods of miraculous activity
  - 1. Jonah, who prophesied to the city of Nineveh (790 B.C.)
  - 2. Prophets sent to the northern kingdom of Israel
    - a. Amos (755 B.C.)
    - b. Hosea (750-725 B.C.)
  - 3. Prophets sent to the southern kingdom of Judah
    - a. Isaiah (740-700 B.C.)
    - b. Micah (735-700 B.C.)
- B. Micah's background
  - 1. His name means "Who is like Jehovah?" - Micah 7:18
  - 2. His home was Moresheth in Gath in the lowlands of Judah, near Philistia, 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem - Micah 1:1, 14
  - 3. He was of the tribe of Ephraim. Nothing is known of his occupation prior to becoming a prophet
  - 4. "He was the prophet of the poor and downtrodden." (Homer Hailey)
  - 5. "He had Amos' passion for justice and Hosea's heart for love." (J Smith)
  - 6. He was slain by Joram the son of Ahab. He died in peace, and was buried in Anikâm. Information about the end of his life is from history and not the scriptures
- C. Comparing Micah to his contemporary Isaiah
  - 1. Micah was a man of the fields; Isaiah was of the city
  - 2. Micah took little interest in politics, was more concerned over spiritual and moral problems; Isaiah was in close contact with world affairs, the associate of kings and rulers
  - 3. Both Micah and Isaiah:
    - a. Saw God as the infinite Ruler of nations and men
    - b. Recognized the absolute holiness and majesty of God
    - c. Taught that violating principles of God's sovereignty and holiness would bring judgment and punishment
- D. Micah's work
  - 1. He prophesied during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah.
  - 2. Micah also anticipated the destruction of Jerusalem and the Judean state and promised its restoration more glorious than before.
  - 3. He prophesied an era of universal peace over which the Governor will rule from Jerusalem.
  - 4. Micah declared that when the glory of Zion and Jacob is restored that the Lord will move the Gentiles to abandon idolatry.

5. His prophecy that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem is cited in Matthew.
- E. Israel responded to Micah's message
1. They confessed their guilt
  2. They declared to their enemies that they would rely on God for deliverance and restoration
  3. They prayed for forgiveness and deliverance

## **I. THE MESSAGE OF MICAH**

- A. God's judgment against Samaria for idolatry and abuse of the poor
1. Micah 1:2-7
- B. Warning to Judah; Samaria has fallen; Judah is next - Micah 1:8-16
1. Misuse of power exposed and denounced - Micah 2:1-5
  2. Threats against the prophet - Micah 2:6-11
  3. Micah responds without fear - Micah 3:1-12
- C. Judah repents - Micah 4:1-7
1. God promises a ruler from Bethlehem - Micah 5:1-14
  2. Judah asks what works of repentance God wants - Micah 6:6-8
- D. Judah humbly and willingly accepts her punishment while anticipating her restoration - Micah 7:7-9
1. Prayer for restoration and future prosperity - Micah 7:14-20