

# Survey of Micah

David Rountree

## Introduction

1. Micah saw the fulfillment of the word of God (Micah 1:1) given to him concerning Samaria (capital of Israel) and Jerusalem (capital of Judah). He primarily addressed Judah, although his words concern the judgment on Israel.
2. Micah's pe-exilic ministry was approximately 733-701 B.C. during the reign of Judah's kings Jotham (coregent with Azariah, 2 Kings 15:1-7), Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chron. 28: 1-27; Isa. 7:1-12); and Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-20; 2 Chron. 26: 1-31). See Micah 1:1.
3. The name *Micah* means, "Who is the Lord?" Perhaps he hints at the meaning of his name and calling in 7:18. View this passage in light of 1:6-7. How do we find the contrast between 1:6,7 and 7:18,19 helpful for our instruction today? How is the key verse of Micah 6:8 relevant to the discussion of Samaria about to be destroyed while Judah looks on?
4. Major purpose: To rebuke God's people for following the oppressive rich, idolaters in worship, and false prophets. In contrast to man's evil he declared the faithfulness and forgiveness of God (1:3-5; 5:5,6; 7:12; 4:10).

## Outline

1. Punishment for Rebellion (1-3)
  - a. Judgment on layman (1-2)
  - b. Judgment on leaders (3)
2. Promises of Restoration (4-5)
  - a. Promise of coming kingdom (4)
  - b. Promise of coming king (5)
3. Pardon for Repentance (6-7)

## Message and Applications

1. The laws of worship had been violated, thus Israel was failing to "walk humbly with their God" (see 1:6-7). They worshiped the gods of foreign nations, summarily the gods of pleasure. "harlot's earnings," refers to what was put into worship in return for receiving pleasure from the temple prostitutes. How is the practice of "worship for pleasure" seen in our day? Contrast Exodus 20:1-6 with Micah 1:7.

2. In 1:8-11, what is the point of a naked preacher?
  
3. Another major sin of Judah was their love of money and acquisition of money through illegitimate sources (2:1-3). The people of God did not “walk justly with one another.” The leaders of the church were as guilty as the laymen (3:1, 2, 11). As a result, society was in a state of chaos (7:5, 6). In what ways might our quests for material wealth anger our God (consider Exodus 20:15-17)?
  
4. We must realize God is serious about our obedience (5:15); that he wants us to be a people that openly acknowledge him as our Lord (4:5). In summary, he requires daily *justice* – living according to his standard, *kindness* – considering others as more important than ourselves; and *humility* – submissiveness to God in all our ways (6:8).
  
5. God promises to build his pure church, first by re-gathering a remnant (2:12), then by reestablishing his kingdom under Jesus the Messiah (5:2, 4). The fact that 5:2 refers to Christ is clear from Matthew 2:6. Micah predicts the exact place of Christ’s birth, the nature of his work, his influence over all the nations and his sovereign victory and authority. The preaching of God’s desire for his church through Christ is still important today (cf. 7:18-20). How does this apply to us?