

# Old Testament Survey

## Micah

### ***The Meaning of Micah***

The name of Micah is a shortened form of another Hebrew word which means “Who is like Jehovah?” Micah’s message is that the product of saving faith, namely repentance and social reform, is missing from both the Northern and Southern kingdoms thus proving that there is no saving faith. Because of this God will judge both Kingdoms but restore them at a later point in time.

### ***General Outline of Micah***

- I. The Sentence of God Upon Both Kingdoms - Micah 1:1-16
  - A. God to crush Israel’s pride because of broken law - Micah 1:1-4
  - B. Because of Idolatry Samaria will be destroyed - Micah 1:5-7
  - C. Lament for the coming Assyrian invasion - Micah 1:8-16
- II. Bill of Particulars: Oppression by the Upper Classes - Micah 2:1-3:12
  - A. Exploitation of the poor by the rich - Micah 2:1-13
  - B. The government devours instead of defending its citizens - Micah 3:1-4
  - C. Contrast between the corrupt religion of the state and the message of the preachers - Micah 3:5-8
  - D. Utter destruction will be meted out to three groups - Micah 3:9-12
- III. The Ultimate Triumph of God’s Grace - Micah 4:1-5:15
  - A. Messianic triumph of the kingdom of God over the world - Micah 4:1-8
  - B. Necessary conditions to be first fulfilled: suffering, exile, restoration, judgment upon heathen neighbors - Micah 4:9-13
  - C. The divine-human Victor who will bring this to pass, defending his flock, destroying the world powers - Micah 5:1-6
  - D. Triumph of Israel after humbling and purging from idolatry - Micah 5:7-15
- IV. God’s Controversy With Ungrateful Israel - Micah 6:1-16
  - A. Summons to the Northern Kingdom to respond - Micah 6:1-5
  - B. Response of an awakened conscience: holy living must accompany valid worship; yet Israel is still dishonest and oppressive - Micah 6:6-13
  - C. Failure to repent will be followed by crop failure; the “clever” policy of alliance with unbelievers is to be discredited - Micah 6:14-16
- V. Fulfillment of Covenant Promise to the Faithful Remnant - Micah 7:1-20
  - A. Lament of true Israel over the prevalence of barbarous selfishness and shameful corruption in their own land - Micah 7:1-6
  - B. True Israel’s continued trust in God’s mercy - Micah 7:7-10
  - C. Christ’s triumph through the church age and the millennium - Micah 7:11-20

### ***Authorship***

1. Micah was a citizen of Judah, being born at Moresheth which is near Gath.
2. Since his father is not mentioned he must have been of lowly birth. This is significant since his message centers around the oppression of the poor by the wealthy and unfeeling nobility.
3. Micah ministered in the provincial areas, staying away from Jerusalem. He apparently was not too involved in international politics as was his contemporary Isaiah.

### ***Date of Composition***

1. Micah ministered at the same time as the early years of Isaiah. This would be during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
2. Interestingly enough, both Micah 4:1-3 and Isaiah 2:2-4 are identical, both referring to the Millennial kingdom.
3. Since according to Micah 6 Israel may still avoid the chastening of God through repentance, we can conclude that this was written before the fall of Samaria in 722 B.C.
4. The bulk of Micah's ministry was during the reign of Ahaz. Apparently Hezekiah took Micah's message seriously and made some attempt at revival and reform.

### ***Integrity of the Text***

1. Some critics challenge the unity of Micah, specifically chapters 6 and 7, by saying that the themes in these chapters did not come into focus until much later.
2. Others want to relegate portions of Micah to much later periods, specifically the prophecy in Micah 4:10.

*The reason for this, again, is the antisupernatural and antiprophetic bias of these liberal scholars.*