

MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope

Sunday, September 13, 2020 — MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope series -- Msg 1 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

The Prophet Micah -- name means "Who is like Yahweh?" (Micah 7:8)

- He was a small-time preacher from a little town in the country.
- He preached for about 25 years around 700 BC (same as big-time prophet Isaiah).
- He preached AGAINST the sins of idolatry and injustice in Judean society.
 - worshipping false gods in their high places (1:7)
 - oppression of the poor (2:1-2)
 - abuse of position (3:1-3)
 - robbing the needy (6:9-11)
 - exploitation of the innocent (1:8-9)
- He preached FOR repentance and righteousness. (6:8)
- God used Micah to bring King Hezekiah to repentance (Jeremiah 26:19) in his day.
- God used Micah's message to save the life of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 26:18) 100 years later!
- God uses Micah's message to proclaim the coming Messiah and His eternal reign (5:2-5).
- God uses Micah's message to give God's people hope of pardon and restoration.

MICAH Chapter 1

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 *The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.*

2 *Hear, you peoples, all of you;
pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it,
and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you,
the Lord from his holy temple.*

3 *For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place,
and will come down and tread upon the high places
of the earth.*

4 *And the mountains will melt under him,
and the valleys will split open,
like wax before the fire,
like waters poured down a steep place.*

5 *All this is for the transgression of Jacob
and for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the transgression of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
And what is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem?*

- 6** *Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country,
a place for planting vineyards,
and I will pour down her stones into the valley
and uncover her foundations.*
- 7** *All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces,
all her wages shall be burned with fire,
and all her idols I will lay waste,
for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them,
and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.*
- 8** *For this I will lament and wail;
I will go stripped and naked;
I will make lamentation like the jackals,
and mourning like the ostriches.*
- 9** *For her wound is incurable,
and it has come to Judah;
it has reached to the gate of my people,
to Jerusalem.*
- 10** *Tell it not in Gath;
weep not at all;
in Beth-le-aphrah
roll yourselves in the dust.*
- 11** *Pass on your way,
inhabitants of Shaphir,
in nakedness and shame;
the inhabitants of Zaanan
do not come out;
the lamentation of Beth-ezel
shall take away from you its standing place.*
- 12** *For the inhabitants of Maroth
wait anxiously for good,
because disaster has come down from the LORD
to the gate of Jerusalem.*
- 13** *Harness the steeds to the chariots,
inhabitants of Lachish;
it was the beginning of sin
to the daughter of Zion,
for in you were found
the transgressions of Israel.*
- 14** *Therefore you shall give parting gifts
to Moresheth-gath;
the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing
to the kings of Israel.*
- 15** *I will again bring a conqueror to you,
inhabitants of Mareshah;
the glory of Israel
shall come to Adullam.*
- 16** *Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair,
for the children of your delight;
make yourselves as bald as the eagle,
for they shall go from you into exile.*

KEY APPLICATIONS:

- 1)** There is nothing new under the sun.
The sins of humanity are basically the same from generation to generation (idolatry, greed, exploitation, etc).
God's Word is amazingly timeless.
- 2)** Never underestimate what God can do with ANYONE through the power of His Word.
- 3)** Don't skip the judgment passages!
-- you can be warned about sin
-- you can be informed about God
 o His holiness
 o His wrath against sin
 o His covenant of grace
-- you can seek His mercy
-- you can rejoice in His grace

Romans 5:6-9

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.