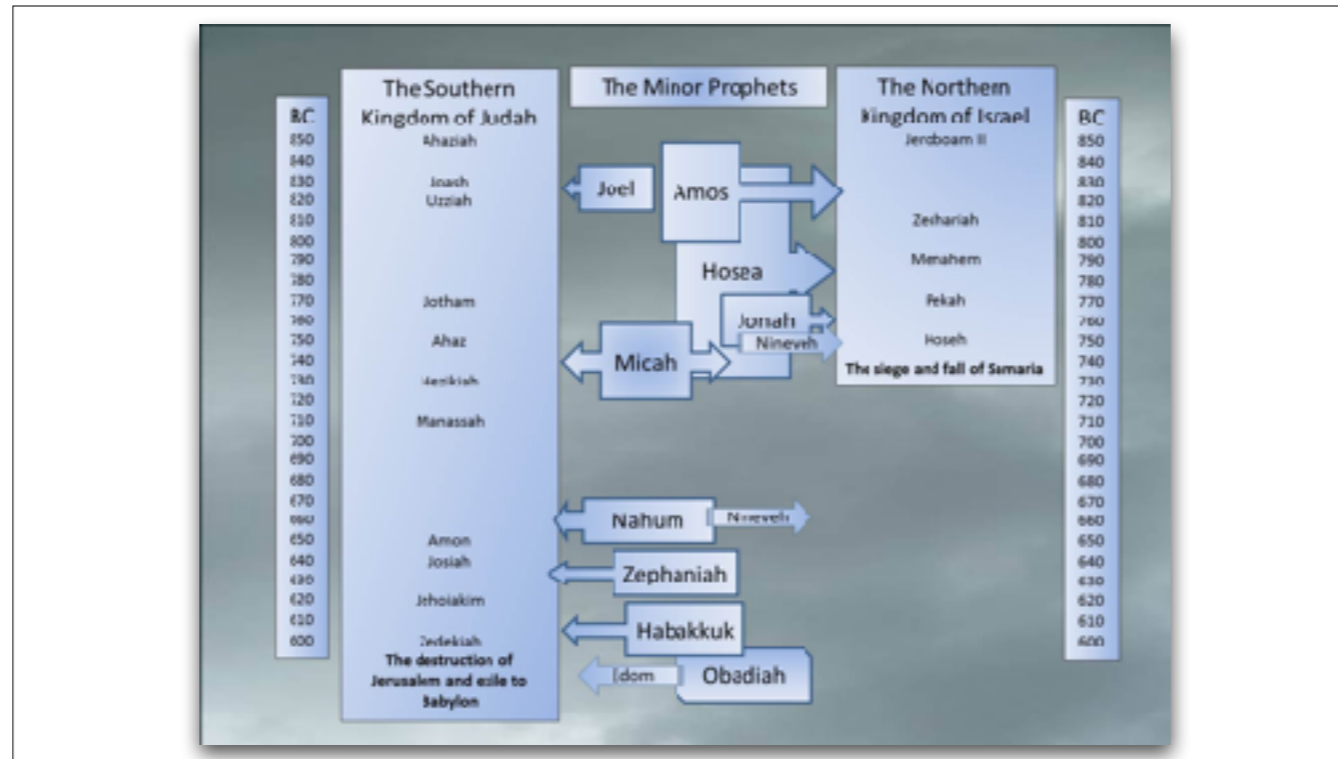


# MICAH

WHAT  
DOES GOD  
WANT  
FROM  
US?



Micah prophesied during the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (Micah 1:1). Jotham and Hezekiah were good kings, but Ahaz was very wicked. Micah's career began a little later than his contemporaries, Isaiah and Hosea (Isaiah 1:1; Hosea 1:1), but his message was similar to the themes of his fellow prophets.

# Micah Overview

- Micah's message was to both Israel and Judah
  - And especially their leaders
- Addressed primarily to their two respective capitals, Samaria and Jerusalem
- Three main ideas were:
  - their Sins
  - their Destruction
  - their Restoration



Micah delivered strong indictments against both Samaria and Jerusalem (Micah 1:5-6). He witnessed idolatry, evil business practices, dishonesty, cheating, bribery and internal strife and corruption.

God was not going to allow these sinful practices to continue. Punishment with famine, war and ultimate national captivity would soon descend upon the people unless they responded to the prophet's warning messages and repented of their wickedness. The rulers were mostly to blame, as they were responsible for leading the people into sin, despite possessing knowledge of God's laws.

Religiously, economically and socially, Israel and Judah were in decline. Unfortunately, history shows that the stubbornness of these nations, and, in particular, their leaders, led to sorrow, bitterness and, in the end, national captivity. See Chapter 3:9-12

9 Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right;

10 who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness.

11 Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money.

Yet they look for the Lord's support and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No disaster will come upon us."

12 Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

# By Chapter

- Chapter 1: Judgment announced against Israel. (1:3-6)
- Chapters 2-3: Micah announces God's condemnation of the false prophets and the rich and powerful for their evil ways. (2:1-3, 3:1-2)
- Chapters 4-5: Millennial reign of Christ; judgment upon the enemies of Israel. (4:1, 5:9)
- Chapter 6: God's controversy with Israel; impending sorrow and punishment for their sins. (6:2-3)
- Chapter 7: God's forgiveness upon Israel's confession of their sins. (7:8-9, 18-19)

## Messianic Prophecies in Zechariah



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,	5:2
He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.	4:3-4

1. The birth of the savior in Bethlehem is foretold in 5:2
2. Jesus is the embodiment of peace

## **What Does God Want From Us?**

“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?”  
(Micah 6:8)

# Do Justice

Discuss how “Do Justice” is more than  
a personal instruction to “Act Justly”

We never take advantage of others, we treat them as we would want to be treated. We need to Bring Justice to our communities, make them more just. What do we do about people who are treated unjustly by society? We must speak up for those who are downtrodden and not allowed to speak for themselves. To put our lives on the line for them. To share in the suffering of those treated unjustly.



# Love Mercy

Discuss how “loving mercy” looks in these situations:

**1 John 4:19-21**

- How others or your spouse would rate you as a husband or wife
- How others would rate you as a son or daughter
- Showing mercy to someone who doesn't deserve it
- How God shows mercy to us



Do we realize what they all have been putting up with all these years?

Loving mercy means much more than receiving it. We must show it. Give others not what they deserve, but what we would want if we were in their shoes.

God is faithful to constantly forgive us and showing his grace. We are called to do the same.

# Walk Humbly



Discuss:

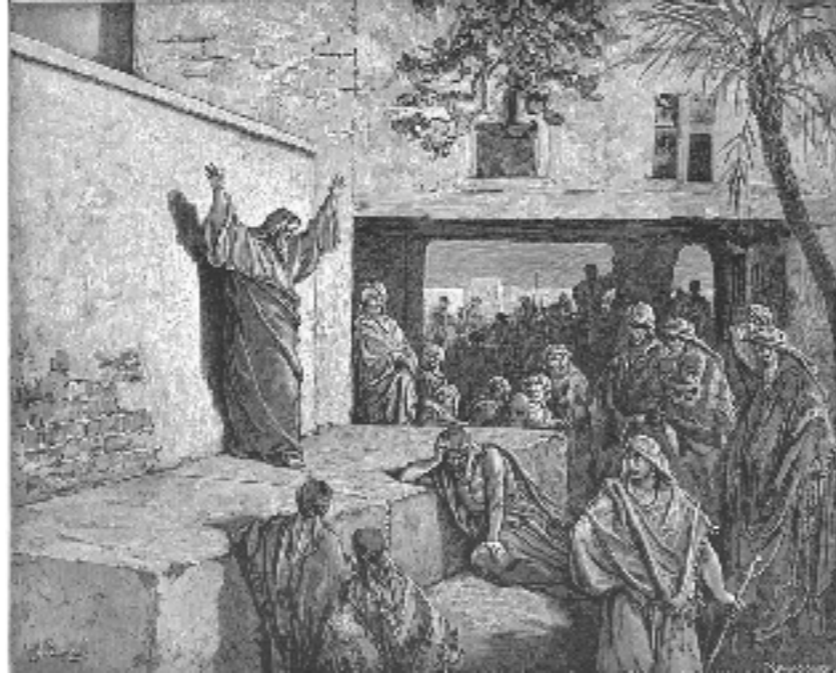
- Do we walk with God, or do we try to run?
- What direction will we walk? How long, how far?
- What is our focus when we walk humbly with God?

We may lack patience for God to lead us (not humble)

We may want God to just carry us; walking takes effort

Walking implies a long distance obedient journey, with God leading.

He leads; we follow. We don't take God's hand and lead him around. We focus on what He wants us to be, not our own dreams and ambitions.



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