

MICAH

WHO IS LIKE YAHWEH?

Micah • September 2022

Overview

The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah (c.750-700 BC), but was from the countryside, Moresheth, not the king's court in Jerusalem.

Micah brings a series of indictments about the consequences for their society about the lack of godly leadership, a lack of care for others, and a general abandonment of values and pursuit of selfishness instead of righteousness. We can identify these things in our society today. God in His mercy does not leave them or us in our sinfulness, but makes promises of hope and salvation for all who have ears to hear.

Notice throughout the book the repeated references to 'watching', shepherds, and hope.

Outline

1. The Shepherd is Coming - Micah 1:2-2:13 (11 September)
2. The King is Coming - Micah 3:1-5:15 (18 September)
3. The Saviour is Coming - Micah 6:1-7:20 (25 September)



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Week 1 • 11 Sept • Micah 1:2-2:13

A nation with a lack of guidance and care: the need for a Good Shepherd.

1. When something is advertised as 'free' - what is your response?
2. Take time to read aloud and listen to your emotional response to the imagery described in Chapter 2. Discuss the difference it makes that the prophecy doesn't stop at 2:11.
3. Micah 1 & 2 may seem backwards with the judgment and consequences stated in chapter 1, and then the reasons or evidence for this in Chapter 2. The Bible has a God-centered perspective, not a reason-centered perspective.
How can/do you have a conversation about this with an unbeliever?

4. In verse 1-11, the 'lost sheep' are described. Is there something in particular you feel personally challenged about? It may not be a problem you have, but something you see as a major injustice that you struggle with.

5. God has not abandoned us as 'lost sheep'. Jesus, our Good Shepherd has come. Together pray the promises of verses 12 and 13 for your Life Group and the lives of the people around you this week.

Leader's Notes:

Chapter 1:10-15 is a very poetic passage where there are word plays and rhyming. The focus is not on the towns, but to provide emphasis for the thing that God is pronouncing judgment on. You might like to explore this to help each other learn how to read the more poetic parts of Scripture.

Also for questions 4 and 5 note Chapter 7:14 -

*Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock of your inheritance,
which lives by itself in a forest,
in fertile pasturelands.
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
as in days long ago.*

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Week 2 • 18 Sept • Micah 3:1-5:15

A nation with a lack of godly leadership - the King is coming.

1. Which do you find easier to have a conversation about; Religion or Politics? Why?

2. In these 3 Chapters, the secular leaders, the spiritual leaders (prophets), and the army commanders are contrasted with God's ideal. There are lots of different images of how God's order is different to the world. Which image/verse:
 - a. Is most interesting

 - b. Is most encouraging for the future

 - c. Illustrates problems we face in Wellington today?

3. Micah 3:5-8 condemns secular wisdom that tells people what they want to hear, instead we (the prophet) are to 'declare' what is ordained by 'the Spirit of the Lord'. How do we do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)?

4. There is a strong military theme to the images of this passage. The battle is clear. In Jesus we have assurance of God's victory. Psalm 46:7(NLT) declares "The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress."

Spend some time in intercession praying for God's Kingdom to come. You may want to use the verses of Micah 5 or other Scripture to guide you in this.

If appropriate, you could commit to regular times of this intercessory prayer this week. Either as individuals at different times, gathered together or even over the phone. Note down any pictures or verses that you receive to share and encourage each other with next week.

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Week 3 • 25 Sept • Micah 6:1-7:20

A nation with a lack of care for each other - The Saviour is coming.

1. How are you feeling about how our church community is going at the moment? What is a blessing or encouragement? What is a struggle / exercise in patience?
2. Micah 6:8 is an often quoted verse. What fresh insights do you get about this verse by considering or contrasting it with the two or three verses before and after it?
3. Consider this quote:
“Spirituality in the way of Jesus is not primarily about rule keeping or ritual keeping. It’s about people keeping. To be sure, there are life-giving formative practices that are a vital part of Christian spirituality... But the practices are not the point. The point is caring for what God cares about - namely, bringing hope, healing, reconciliation, equality, justice and mercy to people created in his image.” - *Barry Jones, Dwell, p95.*

What is one step as a group we can take to grow in this?

4. Consider Matthew 22:37-40. Share how you are feeling challenged to love your neighbour as yourself, based on today's study?

Pray for one another in humility to encourage and equip each other for these spiritual acts of worship in the days and weeks ahead.

Leader's Notes:

In Micah 6:5 God reminds His people of His gracious acts on their behalf — how Balak sought to oppose Israel through pagan divination, sending for Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites; how God saved Israel by causing Balaam to bless instead of curse; and how God later led them across the Jordan River into the promised land, from Shittim (Joshua 3:1) to Gilgal (Joshua 4:19).

You may prefer to consider Matthew 15:3-9 instead, and ask yourselves what your honest answer to Jesus' question in verse 3 is.

