



SOUTHLAND CHURCH

THE BOOK OF
MICAH

7 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional

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INTRODUCTION

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. Although Isaiah was born into the upper class and had wealthy connections as a cousin to the king, Micah lived in a poor region of Judah and was an ordinary country man. Micah saw the exploitation of the poor firsthand and was deeply sensitive to the social ills of his day. His ministry was during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. At that time Israel was split into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). While Micah and Isaiah were preaching to the region of Judah, Hosea was preaching concurrently to the region of Israel before the exile by the Assyrians.

King Jotham and King Ahaz of the Southern Kingdom led the country astray. Even though Jotham was basically considered to be a good king he failed to remove the high places and so the worship of pagan gods continued. Ahaz, on the other hand, was a bad king and failed in keeping the people from following other gods. Evil practices spread from the Northern Kingdom to the Southern Kingdom and from the cities to the countryside. The nation was becoming filled with corruption, exploitation, greed, cheating, violence and cruelty. Social and political power was abused to gain wealth as the poor were oppressed. Micah was passionate about social justice and was horrified that such things were happening among God's people.

DAY 1



READ: Micah 1

Micah begins by pleading for the people to hear and listen (v. 2). Judgment is coming for Samaria, the capital city of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and for Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah (Southern Kingdom). God is not staying in His holy temple but He is coming down to the earth to bring judgment (v. 3). It is God who is bringing this judgment upon the people because of their sin. The people have not obeyed the covenant that God made with them; they have not obeyed His commands. Verses 6-9 focus on the condemnation of Samaria. The nation was full of idolatry therefore God would break their idols. They had even degenerated so far that they had temple prostitutes; even Baal worship had become rampant. Micah mourns for Samaria's fall in verses 8-9. History reveals that the Northern Kingdom was exiled to the Assyrians as punishment for their sins. The sin of Samaria did not just infect their region but had spread to Judah, a wound that was incurable. In verses 10-15 Micah uses poetic language to explain what would happen in various cities. He speaks to Gath, Beth-le-aphrah, Shaphir, Zaanan, Beth-ezel, Maroth, Lachish, Moresheth-gath, Achzib, Mareshah and Adullam, describing to each of them the downfall that they would experience. If Micah was writing to Canada he would include Canadian cities such as Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, etc. The chapter ends with a final lamentation in verse 16, *"Shave your heads in mourning for the children in whom you delight; make yourselves as bald as the vulture, for they will go from you into exile."*



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. What does this chapter tell you about God (see vs. 3-4) and how He intervenes to deal with sin?
2. Micah has a strong emotional response to the coming judgment (vs. 8). What does this say to you about how believers should respond to the sins of their nation? Ask the Lord to show you how you can pray for our nation.
3. How would the children be affected by the people's sins (vs. 16)? Ask the Lord to show you how the children in our society will pay as the result of the sins of our nation, then turn that into a prayer of protection for the children.

DAY 2 **READ:** Micah 2

This chapter begins with Micah describing the depths of the sins of the people. They are so evil that they stay awake at night scheming ways that they can take advantage of the poor (v. 1-2). Therefore, God will have a stronger nation come in and do the same to them. They will experience calamity, the rich landowners will fall and they will be cut off from the Promised Land. In verses 6-7a Micah mimics the false prophets who keep telling the people that everything is going to be fine. This sounds familiar in our day as many Christian leaders and churches say that everything is going to be fine. Some even go so far as to teach that final judgment and eternal damnation does not exist. Then there are others that teach a false health and wealth Gospel. Verse 11 shows what kind of prophet the people wanted to listen to - one that promised what they wanted to hear. Is that what we hear when we seek the Lord? Even though the people are headed for captivity God promises deliverance! There is the hope of restoration in the midst of this terrible message of judgment. After the exile God will gather the remnant and bring them back (v. 12).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Micah speaks of the rich who are exploiting the poor. What does this look like in our world today with our global economy? Ask the Lord to show you ways that you can take a stand against this.
2. Verse 11 speaks of how the people wanted to listen to someone who would tell them what they wanted to hear. Meditate on this verse for a moment, asking the Lord to bring clarity on what this looks like in your life.
3. The chapter closes with a marvelous promise for those who would experience oppression. Ask the Lord to speak a promise to you today about an issue that you are facing. Thank Him for what He shows you.

DAY 3 **READ:** Micah 3

In this chapter the rulers are condemned for their wicked practices. Instead of ruling with holiness and righteousness they abuse their power and seek personal gain instead of ensuring justice for all. Three specific groups of rulers are mentioned: princes (or leaders/rulers), priests and prophets. The princes are metaphorically tearing skin off of the people, in other words, they are ripping them off. They were only concerned about money. Their punishment will be that in their time of trouble, God will ignore them and not answer them (v. 1-4). The sin of the Prophets was prophesying peace when they were paid well and prophesying doom when they were not paid well. For lining their own pockets God would bring darkness so dark that they would not be able to see and He will take away their dreams and visions (v. 5-7). This is in contrast to Micah, who is a true prophet (v. 8) exposing the people's sin. Verse eleven gives a good summary – the princes, priest and prophets are all filled with greed! They care more about money than they do about truth and are deceived into thinking that they falsely trust the Lord will protect them! Because of their sin Jerusalem will be destroyed and the temple will be left in ruins (v. 12).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. In verse 8 Micah says that he will stand up for what is right and proclaim the truth! How is this a model for you to follow? Ask Jesus to show you what this should look like in your life?
2. Greed is a common theme in chapter three. Greed can have many faces, many of which we can be blind to. Re-read the chapter, asking the Lord to show you His definition of greed. Ask the Lord how you can apply what He has shown you in your walk with Him.
3. The actions of the princes, priests and prophets have a direct effect on the nation. Ask the Lord how you can pray for our nation's leaders and church.

DAY 4 **READ:** Micah 4

Micah now changes his focus and turns to what God intends to bring about in the future. The chapter starts with the phrase, "in the last days" which tells us that this is an end times prophecy. The following characteristics will be seen at that time:

- Jerusalem will become the centre on which nations converge (v. 1-2a)
- Jerusalem will be the centre on which God's word goes forth and there will be peace (v. 2b-4)
- The nation will be gathered (v. 6)
- The nation will be transformed (v. 7)
- Jerusalem will be established as the capital of the world (v. 8)

Micah foresees the collapse of the monarchy (v. 9) and the impending exile (v. 10a) but he also sees that they will be redeemed (v. 10b). Their enemies will gloat (v. 11) but they will be defeated (v. 12-13).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. The future that Micah speaks of includes all nations coming to Jerusalem to worship. This is a peaceful time when spears will no longer be needed so they will be turned into plowshares (v. 3). Thank the Lord for the coming hope that we have for a great future in eternity!
2. Re-read chapter four writing down all the blessings that we will experience in eternity! How does this build desire and excitement in you for eternity?
3. Even though there will be pretty tough times ahead, the prophet Micah tells of future victory. What does God want to say to you about this today in relation to where we are at right now in human history?

DAY 5 **READ:** Micah 5

Chapter five is a continuation of chapter four but adds the promise of the future Messiah. As Micah was writing the Gentiles were sieging Israel. In the depths of judgement a great promise is given - a future king will be born in Bethlehem (v. 2). Israel will be abandoned until the Messiah is born (v. 3). This Saviour will be a strong shepherd and the people will be delivered (v. 6b). The remnant of Jacob will experience a divine source of existence (v. 7), irresistible power (v. 8) and divine promise (v. 9). In order for these amazing things to happen God would first have to take away a few things such as human weapons and fortification (v. 10-11), the occult (v. 12), and idolatry (v. 13-14). They will be cleansed! Finally, God restates how He will deal with their enemies.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. In verse 5 Micah says, "And He will be their peace" meaning the Messiah. How has Jesus brought and kept peace in your life?
2. Verses 10-15 describe the destruction of anything that Judah might depend on instead of God. Ask the Lord to show you the things that we, in our society, depend on. What does the Lord want to say to you today about these things?
3. Thank the Lord for the things that He has been showing you in His Word. Thank Him for the light that His Word provides to us. What are 2-3 other things you can thank Him for today in regards to His Word?

DAY 6 **READ:** Micah 6

This chapter depicts a courtroom scene where God is building a lawsuit against Israel. Micah begins by asking the people to listen to the Lord's accusation. God asks a rhetorical question, "What have I done to you (v. 3)?" and recounts His faithfulness to them including their deliverance from Egypt (v. 4), how Balaam blessed Israel instead of cursing them (v. 5a) and how they crossed the Jordan on dry land between Gilgal and Shittim (v. 5b). The people respond by trying to bribe God with sacrifices, they are not repentant (v. 6-7). Micah then tells them in verse 8 what God wants: *"...O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."* God wants justice, mercy, loyalty and love! Israel was far from Him and because of this God could declare them guilty. They had cheated people with dishonest scales and false weights (v. 11). They are a people of violence, lies and deceit (v. 12) therefore they will be punished. They will eat but experience hunger, they will store but save nothing, they will plant but not harvest, and they will work and get nothing in return (v. 14-15). They will be given over to ruin and be the scorn of nations (v. 16).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Verses 3-5 speak of God's faithfulness to His people. How has God recently shown you His faithfulness?
2. Sometimes Christians reduce Christianity down to simply following a bunch of rules or doing certain things like going to church or having regular devotions and avoiding other things like sin. What does this chapter teach about these things?

3. Ask the Lord to show you how you can better live out verse 8. Pray that you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live according to His Word.

DAY 7 **READ:** Micah 7

This chapter begins with Micah lamenting over the moral degeneration of his society. Looking for godly people was like trying to find summer fruit after the harvest had ended. Evil had gotten so bad that it wasn't just one hand but BOTH hands that were doing evil (v. 3). The day that the watchmen had warned them about had arrived (v. 4b). Micah watches the family unit disintegrating (v. 6) and waits and hopes for deliverance (v. 7). Even though Jerusalem has fallen, she will rise. She will suffer for her sins but will be brought from darkness to light (v. 8-9). God will punish her enemies (v. 10). Israel will be blessed through expansion of her borders (v. 11) and people will migrate there (v. 12). God will not forget His people. They will be shepherded by Him (v. 14) and will experience miracles and wonders (v. 15) that testify to the nations who will be ashamed (v. 16) and will fear the Lord (v. 17). Here we see that God's ultimate purpose for Israel to be a light to the nations will be fulfilled as the nation's turn to God. God will pardon their sin and forgive their transgressions. He delights to show mercy and will have compassion on His people. God is faithful to His covenant and will keep the promise that He made to Abraham.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Micah mourns the moral degradation of society. Ask the Lord what He wants to say to you about the moral degradation of our society. Then, pray for our nation. Pray that you would learn to lament the sins of our culture the way that Micah lamented the sins of his.
2. Even though Micah saw judgment coming his hope was in the Lord (v. 7). What does God want to say to you today about finding hope in Him through tough circumstances?
3. Read verses 18-20 and turn them into a thanksgiving prayer.



The Book of Micah

The book of Micah alternates between oracles of judgment and oracles of hope. God hates idolatry, injustice, rebellion and empty ritualism but delights in restoring His people when they return to Him. Micah also depicts the future glory of Jerusalem as well as including many prophecies about Jesus.

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

"...O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

