

Micah

Micah's home was Moresheth-Gath in the lowlands of Judah and this was the general location of his prophetic activity.

Micah 1:1 [New King James] *“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.”*

This period of Micah's prophetic sayings spans 742BC to 687BC.

Although Micah lived rural surroundings, he was familiar to the corruptions of city life in Israel and Judah.

Micah's denunciations were directed mostly to Jerusalem condemning the rampant corruption among secular and religious leaders of his day, [Micah 2:1, 11] and the gross miscarriages of justice perpetrated by those dedicated to the upholding of the law, [Micah 3:10-11]. All this was carried out in an atmosphere of false religiosity.

Micah looks forward in prophecy to the coming of the Messiah, [**Micah 5:2**] as a Saviour and also as bringer of justice and peace.

Micah 4:1-7 [New King James] *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. Zion's Future Triumph ‘In that day,’ says the LORD, ‘I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever.’”*

The hoped for restoration of a universal religion that worships only the One True Creator God.

This is the hope and vision of the future that all True Christians have in every generation as they endure the injustice and persecution of a world that is at this time ruled by the evil Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9**].

This saving grace of God cannot be earned by either pretentious sacrificial offerings or by indulgence in elaborate ritual forms of worship, [Micah 6:6-8].

What God is seeking in us is a complete change of heart and way of life, where humility, mercy and justice are an everyday experience.

What can we learn from the prophetic words of Micah? –

Choosing to live a life apart from God is making a commitment to sin, sin leads to judgement and eternal death unless we repent.

God alone can show us the way to eternal peace, [Isaiah 59:8].

Micah 2:1-2 [New King James] *“Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”*

A person’s thoughts and plans reflect their character. What do you think about as you lie down to sleep? Evil thoughts lead to evil deeds.

Micah 2:11 [King James] *“If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.”*

People like prophets who tell them only what they want to hear, it makes them feel comfortable in their sinful life.

A true teacher will tell the truth of God, based on His Word, the Christian Bible, regardless of what the people want to hear.

Micah 6:6-8 [New King James] *“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 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?”*

People have tried all kinds of physical ways to please God, but through Micah God has made His wishes very clear. We need to meditate on verse 8, examine these areas of our life on a regular basis.

Am I fair in my dealings with all other people?

Do I show mercy to those who have wronged me?

Am I learning to be constantly humble before my Creator God?

Micah 7:1-3 [New King James] *“Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, like those who glean vintage grapes; there is no cluster to eat of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires. The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; every man hunts his brother with a net. That they may successfully do evil with both hands, the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire; so they scheme together.”*

Micah could not find an upright person anywhere in the land.

Today it is also difficult to find honesty and integrity, for society rationalises sin and even those who consider themselves Christian sometimes compromise Christian principles in order to do what they want to do! It is very easy to justify our actions to ourselves, especially when “everyone else is doing it,” but true standards come only from the Creator God through His Word, the Christian Bible, not society.

Micah 7:5-6 [New King James] *“Do not trust in a friend; do not put your confidence in a companion; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom. For son dishonours father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own household.”*

Deceit and dishonesty can ruin family life that is the core of any society.

Micah 7:18-19 [New King James] *“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He*

delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

This thankfully is the character of the True Creator God, who delights to show mercy when we repent and offers forgiveness to all who turn to Him in a humble attitude of mind.

Confess your sins to this loving, merciful Creator God today and receive His forgiveness. Do **not** be too proud to accept God’s free offer, for He wants to not only forgive us but also to forget our confessed and repented sins, [**Isaiah 43:25**].