

2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

The Book of Micah	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p>The book of Micah was written by the one to whom its name indicates. Micah was from Moresheth, a Judean town about twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem near the Philistine city of Gath. He was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah and himself prophesied about the Assyrian destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and later the defeat of the Southern Kingdom by the Babylonians. His name, Micah, which means, “Who is like God?” foreshadows a critical question found in the final chapter of the book of Micah, “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?” The prophet Micah was a truth teller, who spoke of judgment that what was to come, while also proclaiming the hope that is available in the midst of any circumstance. While communicating the word of the Lord that came to him (Micah 1:1), the prophet never lost sight of the faithfulness of God. The book of Micah opens with a pronouncement of judgment that is coming against the people of Samaria and Jerusalem (Micah 1:3-7). There will be a time of destruction (Micah 1:6-7). There will also be a time of weeping and lament, for the sins of the people have brought about their own desolation. However, from the outset of the prophets’ message, brought about from The Lord, hope is also an underlying theme that is communicated. There is disaster, but there is also a hopeful promise of deliverance. “I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel” (Micah 2:12a). In His righteous judgment, God has not forgotten His people. The ‘remnant,’ is a continual reminder for God’s people of the hope of restoration in the midst of the pitfalls. (Walvoord).</p> <p>Micah is one of the few prophets who explicitly stated his purpose: “But as for me. I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin” (Micah 3:8). His message was that the people, particularly the upper class, were guilty of injustice; Micah 2:1-2, 3:1-3, 9-11, 6:10-11 (Hill & Walton 644). The result that they would face was one of exile and destruction. However, there are also numerous sections that point to hope and deliverance, for a remnant of people. These offers of hope appear indicate both short term from Assyria (Micah 2:12-13, 5:2-9) and ultimate hope and restoration for the nation via a remnant, although time designations are not clear (Micah 4:1-5, 7:8-20) (Hill & Walton 644). He was confident that The Lord would restore the people to a place of prominence in the world under the Messiah (Walvoord 1475). A contemporary of the prophet Isaiah, Micah is said to have prophesied during the days of kings Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. These particular kings reigned during the last half of the 8th century BC (Hill & Walton 642).</p>
Interesting Facts in Micah	<p>Though the theme of judgment is prominent in the book of Micah, the prophet was also one who stressed restoration for God’s people. He makes mention of the remnant in each of his three thematic proclamations (2:12, 4:7, 5:7-8, 7:18). It seems evident that he was confident that someday the Lord would restore the people of Israel at the coming of the Messiah (Walvoord 1475). The book of Micah is written in poetry, which includes several puns (Walvoord 1475).</p>
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Micah	<p>Micah’s message was that people, more notably the upper class, were guilty of injustice (2:1-2, 3:1-3, 9-11, 6:10-11). As a result, there were coming consequences of their sin and would ultimately suffer destruction and exile. The judgments were broken into five ways, destruction of cult objects and practices (1:3-7, 3:12). Political devastation, including being</p>

	<p>overthrown (1:10-16). Personal judgment against certain people (2:3-5). Spiritual judgment (3:6-7) and socioeconomic judgment (6:13-16).</p> <p>In light of the coming judgment and exile, the prophet Micah also notes several reminders of coming hope and deliverance, to at the least a remnant of people. This deliverance was both short term from the Assyrians (2:12-13, 5:2-9) and restoration for the entire nation in the future (4:1-5, 7:8-20), though those particular times and details are not made clear. What is clear, is that there is judgment for sin and injustice, but yet hope and grace for a remnant of those who would be faithful and true.</p>
Memory Verse	<p><i>“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?”</i> (Micah 6:8 NKJV).</p>
Practical Application to memory verse	<p>As a disciple of Jesus Christ our nature is to avoid that which is displeasing to God. By taking into consideration that the Lord has called His people to be a light in the world and set them apart for His glory. Pray about recognizing more faithfully that there are consequences for actions, but that in the midst of that God still offers hope and restoration.</p>
Life Application from Biblical Themes in Micah	<p>The prophet Micah was a mouthpiece for God, who spoke of the judgement that was to come, while also proclaiming that hope is available in the midst of any circumstance. While communicating the word of God that came to him (Micah 1:1), the prophet never lost sight of God’s promise of hope and restoration and in doing so offers readers today a reminder that God is faithful and offers hope. The people of God have been called to be holy, set apart and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, such holiness is found in the grace of God through faith. The prophet Micah proclaimed a truth that still resonates today. One that points to the reminder of an establishment of God’s Kingdom reign, points to the hope of a Messianic King with origins from of old, that God is also faithful to His promises and covenant pledged on oath days long ago (Micah 7:20). Hope is available, for God is our Savior. Micah knew that hope, Micah proclaimed that hope and the hope Micah spoke of is still readily available today.</p> <p>Resources: <i>A Survey of the Old Testament 3rd edition.</i> Andrew Hill & John Walton. Zondervan. 2009 <i>Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures.</i> J.F. Walvoord, R.B. Zuck & Dallas Theological Seminary. Victor Books. 1985.</p>