

MICAH

“Who Is Like Jehovah”

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

A. THE MAN:

1. Is of the village of Moresheth-gath. A small town about 20-25 miles S W of Jerusalem.
2. Know nothing about his occupation or family.
3. He was a prophet of the poor and down trodden.
4. “He had Amos’s passion for justice and Hosea’s heart for love.” (Jm. M. P. Smith; I.C.C.)
5. He was a contemporary of Isaiah.
 - a. Isaiah close to Kings and Rulers.
 - b. Micah to the poor.
6. Each saw Jehovah as the infinite ruler of nations and men. Each recognized the absolute holiness and majesty of their God, and each pointed out that to violate the principles of His divine sovereignty and holiness would bring inevitable doom. (H. Haile).

B. THE DATE:

1. 735 B. C. - 700 B. C.
2. Micah lived and labored in one of the darkest days of Israel’s history. Both Israel and Judah had yielded to the soul-destroying influences of idolatry, and their faith in the true God was shaken.

BACKGROUND

A. POLITICAL:

1. A degree of success had come to Judah under King Hezekiah.
2. Had brought with it social evils and spiritual failings.
3. By 702, or 701 Much trouble. Assyrian invasion. Hezekiah shut up like a “bird in a cage”.

B. SOCIAL:

1. Socially and morally Judah presented a dark picture during the latter part of the 8th century.
2. Rulers sold the rights of men and vested interests gained control of lands.
3. The people were under the control of::
 - a. “False prophets (2:11).
 - b. “Priests who taught for hire (3:11)
 - c. “Rulers in their greed were as cannibals (3:1-3, 9).
 - d. Judges, judged for a bribe (7:3).

C. RELIGION:

1. Had been many reforms by Hezekiah (Isaiah) But this did not last.

MICAH

“Who Is Like Jehovah”

Page 2

2. From Micah we learn the people were long on show and short on devotion

TEACHINGS

A. JEHOVAH:

1. The holiness of Jehovah and the righteousness of His government are stressed by Micah.
2. As long as Jehovah's people do right- they enjoy His favor.

B. THE MESSIAH:

1. Compare: Micah 4 and Isaiah 2.

C. BASIC MESSAGE:

1. “*What doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God. (6:8).*
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PROBLEM OF AUTHORITY

A. The question of authority is basic to the book of Micah. Rulers, Prophets, Priest and People did not have the respect for God and His Word that they should have had.

B. The lack of respect for the Bible today is the beginning of the road to ruin.

1. Atheism and infidelity had denied a divine revelation.
2. Roman Catholicism consider the Bible alone as inadequate - and insist on traditions, etc. of “living church”.
3. Protestantism have nullified their plea for the Bible alone by their creeds.

C. Therefore the basic plea for a return to the authority of God's Word is needed now as much as ever!

MICAH AND CULTS

1. God's condemnation through Micah is relevant to the proliferation of witchcraft, Satanism, Astrology and religious cults of every conceivable nature today. The publication of literature on these subjects has become a multi-million dollar business.

2. A cursory glance at almost any newsstand will make this evident. Even some in the church today are entranced by horoscopes and the current predictions of such as Jeane Dixon. Fortune tellers, and mediums are having a heyday. All such works of darkness have always been forbidden by God.

3. Lev. 19:26; Deut. 18:10-12; Ex. 22:18; Acts 19:18,19.

MICAH

“Who Is Like Jehovah”

Page 3

Book Preserved Because

- A. With unflinching boldness, he condemned evil in high places, among princes, prophets, priests and the people.
1. Above his fierce denunciations and predictions of doom, the burden of his soul was for the repentance and restoration of the people of God.
 2. He possessed the relentless conviction that God never ignores sin, that sin incurs just and painful punishment, and that “the way of the transgressor is hard.”

B. GOD’S GREAT DESIRE TO SAVE.

“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in lovingkindness. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the loving-kindness to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old. (7:18-20).
