
Micah 1:8-16 *Weep & Wail*

4. Micah names a number of towns in Judah that were going to feel the scourge of the Assyrians. He predicts their judgment in words that play upon the name of each town. Had these towns been in Ohio, Micah might have said, "Dayton will become as night," or "Youngstown will grow old and weak."

Here are a few examples from Micah 1:10-15. The people of Beth Ophrah ("Dust-town") are to roll in the dust to symbolize their sorrow. Those in Shaphir ("Beautiful-town") will not look very beautiful when they're taken away in shameful nakedness. The inhabitants of Zaanan ("Exit-town") will not leave their city when the enemy approaches - either because they're all dead or because they're hiding in fear. Those in Lachish ("Chariot-town") are advised to use their horses and chariots to escape God's judgment - if that were possible.

Micah's play on words might sound like taunts, but the prophet isn't gleefully rubbing his hands together at Judah's predicted downfall (cf. Micah 1:8). What does this teach us about the way in which we are to call sinners to repentance?

Micah 2:1-11 *A Litany of Sins*

5. According to this section, what sins were the people guilty of?
6. How would the punishment for the people's sins fit their crime?
7. Paraphrase what the false prophets were preaching. Have you heard similar "sermons"?

Micah 2:12,13 *The Breaker*

8. How is this section different than the previous one?
9. Micah 2:12, 13 is probably describing Jesus, the promised Messiah. In what ways is his work described in these verses?

Micah 4 *An Uplifting Message*

4. Micah prophesied that “in the last days” Mt. Zion in Jerusalem would be raised above all other mountains (Micah 4:1). Read a portion of the Apostle Peter’s Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:15-17) to find out what time period the Old Testament phrase “in the last days” is describing.

5. How do Jesus’ words in Matthew 8:11 help make sense of Micah 4:2, where the prophet says that people will stream to the mountain of the Lord’s temple, which will have been raised high above all other mountains?

6. Agree or disagree? Micah 4:3-5 speaks about a future of peace that we can look forward to on this earth.

7. Micah 4:8 is likely a prophecy about Jesus. If so, what comfort does this verse bring you?

8. In 4:10, Micah prophesies that God’s people would “writhe in agony.” Why? What event was Micah prophesying?

Micah 5 *In Bethlehem? Really?*

9. Take a closer look at Micah 5:1-5a. What bad news did the prophet share with the people of his day? What was the good news for them...and us?

10. God not only promised to protect Judah from the Assyrians, he said that they would “rule the land of Assyria” (Micah 5:6). This didn’t happen politically, however. What kind of ruling did God have in mind? What insights does Micah 5:7,8 provide?

11. In Micah 5:11-15, God vowed to destroy all of Israel’s idols. How was this bad news? How was it good news?

MICAH'S PROPHECY

Lesson 3: Hear, O Nation!

Micah 6 *Hear, O Mountains, the Lord's Case*

1. God calls on the mountains to be his witness against the Israelites. What does God say is Israel's complaint against him? (cf. Micah 6:3)
2. What two pieces of "evidence" does the Lord use to counter the Israelites' complaint against him? (cf. Micah 6:4,5) Explain each one. (cf. Numbers 22-25; Joshua 4-5)
3. The Israelites were convicted of their sin. How do they offer to fix the problem? (cf. Micah 6:6, 7) Why wasn't God impressed with this offer? (cf. Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:10-17; Matthew 9:13)
4. What was the consequence of Judah's impenitence? (cf. Micah 6:9-16)

Micah 7 *Sins Thrown Into the Depths*

5. Why was the prophet Micah so frustrated? (cf. Micah 7:1-6)
6. In the midst of all the wickedness and oppression, Micah expresses his hope and confidence. What does he look forward to? (cf. Micah 7:7)

7. Micah 7:8-20 is a conversation in which the penitent, God, and Micah are participants. Identify the speaker in each section listed below, summarize the main point(s) each makes, and explain what comfort you receive from their words.

a. Micah 7:8-10

- *speaker:*
- *main point(s):*

- *comfort you receive:*

b. Micah 7:11-14

- *speaker:*
- *main point(s):*

- *comfort you receive:*

c. Micah 7:15

- *speaker:*
- *main point(s):*

- *comfort you receive:*

d. Micah 7:16-20

- *speaker:*
- *main point(s):*

- *comfort you receive:*

8. As you recall the content of Micah's prophecy, what strikes you about the way it ends?