

Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 47. Micah

- **Introduction**
  - Author: Micah; from an agricultural area in Judah away from Jerusalem
  - Date: Ministered somewhere between 750–686 BC, most likely (roughly) the last quarter of the 8th Century BC.
  - Context:
    - Jotham was an okay king who didn't root out idolatry, and his son Ahaz steered all the way into it before *his* son Hezekiah brought real reform.
    - During the previous decades of Assyria being quiet, Judah had enjoyed prosperity that created a selfish and abusive upper class of nobility, priests, and prophets.
    - During Micah's time, Assyria rose back to prominence, conquered Northern Israel, and attacked Judah.
  - The book is written in three cycles of judgment followed by restoration that each focus on different aspects of the issues and each expand the vision of God's solution.

- Main themes:
  - Human leadership _____, but God holds them accountable.
  - The solution is for _____ to shepherd people.
  - God's way of shepherding people will be through the _____.

- **Cycle 1 (Chapters 1–2)**
  - Chapter 1 shows God pouring out His wrath on Israel in the form of the _____ invasion.
    - The judgment begins with the effects of God's wrath on the whole earth before addressing Samaria and then Judah.
    - The last half of the chapter is dependent on puns on the names of cities that would be on the path of an army advancing toward Jerusalem.
  - Chapter 2 addresses the greed and hypocrisy among the people before reassuring whatever faithful remnant was there that God would come shepherd them instead of those who were abusing them.

- **Cycle 2 (Chapters 3–5)**
  - Chapter 3 indicts the bad _____ leadership and then the bad _____ leadership before proclaiming the consequences they will bring on the people.

  - Chapter 4 gives a vision of the _____ _____.
    - This is a conscious contrast with the state of the nation described in chapter 3 by focusing on the justice and peace that will exist.
    - Its inhabitants will be a remnant of the weak who have no power of their own.
    - Judgment will come first at the hands of foreign enemies, but God will use their wicked gain for His ultimate glory.

  - Chapter 5 introduces the Messiah.
    - Israel's king will fail, but God will raise up another Who will succeed, not just militarily, but also in fulfilling His calling to shepherd the people.
    - This is quoted in Matt. 2:4–6 to show that Israel understood that the Messiah would be a Davidic king.
    - The 'Good Shepherd' doesn't just care about the behavior of the people, but also their hearts and loyalty to God.

- **Cycle 3 (Chapters 6–7)**
    - Chapter 6 shows where the real failure has been.
        - God has been faithful and demonstrated good character, and that is ultimately what He expects in return.
        - Instead, the people have done the opposite, so God says they will reap what they have sown.

    - Chapter 7 laments the broken state of society but looks forward to when the Messiah will rule with righteousness.
        - Micah is distraught by what he sees, but Christ quotes verse 6 (cf. Matt. 10:21, 25) to warn us that humanity is still in that state.
        - The response is to look toward vindication when the Messiah brings _____.
        - God will show mercy because of His covenant with Abraham and Jacob.

Discussion:

1. Why is Christ's role as King (not just Savior, Creator, etc.) so necessary?

2. How does Micah help us view politics in a healthier way?

FOR REFLECTION: Do you trust God to vindicate faithfulness enough that focus more on witnessing to people than on changing them?

Blanks: fails, God, Messiah, Assyrian, political, religious, Millennial Kingdom, justice