

Micah - Who is a God like the Lord?

Who tells the truth about sin.

Micah 1-3

Are there real consequences to sin? Does it really bring the judgment of God?

Will God punish those who ignore or disobey Him?

Micah says there is a price for sin - the judgment of God.

Micah - His name means "Who is like the Lord" - **Micah 7:8**

He was contemporary with Isaiah, Amos and Hosea,

Was from a small village south of Jerusalem - Moresheth/Gath

His message alternates between oracles of doom and oracles of hope

Authority - The Word of the Lord - often gives the words of God - ex. **1:6-7**

For local time and situation but also **1:2** to all people of the world

Message of Micah

I. The Results of Sin is Judgment **Micah 1**

A. Samaria - capital of Israel - the northern kingdom

1:6 Will become a heap of ruins

1:7 Idols will be smashed - It will become desolate

1:9 It is incurable - will never to come back to life

In 722 BC, nearly twenty years after the initial deportations, the ruling city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Samaria, was finally taken by Sargon II after a three-year siege started by Shalmaneser V.

B. Jerusalem - capital of Judah - the southern kingdom

3: 12 It will be plowed as a field - will be a heap of ruins

In 586 BC, after completion of the eleventh year of Zedekiah's reign, Nebuchadnezzar broke through Jerusalem's walls, conquering the city. After seeing his sons killed, Zedekiah was blinded, bound, and taken captive to Babylon, where he remained a prisoner until his death. After the fall of Jerusalem, the Babylonian general Nebuzaraddan was sent to complete its destruction. Jerusalem was plundered and Solomon's Temple was destroyed.

C. The cities would be destroyed

The names of the cities used in description of judgment

II. The Reason of Judgment is Sin **Micah 2**

A. Specific sins exposed

2:1 Evil scheming

2:2 Coveting leading to fraud and violence

2:3 Robbery - stealing family inheritance

2:6 Attempting to squash the truth

2:8 Take advantage of those who trust you

2:9 Steal from women and children

B. Truth called false

2:7 Speaking against the truth of God

2:11 Praising those who tell you what you want to hear

III. The Rulers leading the way to Sin **Micah 3**

A. Sins of the civil leaders - injustice **1-4**

3: 2 Hate good and love evil

B. Sins of the religious leaders **5-8**

3:5 Falsely prophecy peace

3:8 Contrast to Micah -Filled with Spirit, Proclaims justice
Condemns sin

C. Sins of rulers of Jerusalem **9-12**

3:9 Hate justice and twist truth

3:10 Resort to murder and corruption

3:11 Demand bribes for doing right

3:11 Priests serve only for money

3:11 Prophets prophesy for money -Use God's name falsely

Lessons we should learn from Micah

1. True faith should result in personal holiness and in social justice
2. No sacrifices or religion can substitute for righteousness
3. Calling on the name of the Lord is empty without obedience
4. God hates idolatry, injustice, rebellion and empty ritualism
5. God weeps over the sins of His people
(And so do His followers)

What Christ taught from Micah -- **Matthew 10:34-39**

Sin will bring judgment from God

On earth it brings separation, pain and sorrow

In eternity it brings separation from God and all that is good

True love for Christ means obedience

He must be the first and highest priority of life

We must be willing to take up His shame and suffering

We must lose ourselves in Him to find true life

Don't Forget April 17th - International Dinner

Pray for and Support the Macedonia Team - May 14-24