

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Series #8: The Minor Prophets
Session #13: Micah, Chapters 6-7
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Summary of Micah

Micah is one of the eighth-century prophets—a contemporary of Isaiah and a little later than Hosea and Amos. Like these other prophets, Micah speaks against false worship and for social justice. He proclaims harsh judgments against his own people (the nation of Judah) and is particularly offended by the leaders in business, government, and religion. Micah comes from a small town outside Jerusalem and addresses the centers of power from the perspective of an outsider, particularly as he describes the coming Messiah. He even boldly predicts the destruction of the holy city of Jerusalem. The book also provides words of hope beyond the judgment. Although a native of the Southern Kingdom, Micah did not espouse the David-Zion tradition, with its belief in the inviolability of Jerusalem. Instead, he favored the Moses-Sinai tradition of the Northern Kingdom, with its emphasis on the exodus and Moses.

Major Theological Themes

- 1) Acquiring God's favor.
- 2) Chosen people.
- 3) Context for hope.
- 4) False prophets.
- 5) God's control of all events.
- 6) Justice of God.
- 7) Leaders have special responsibility.

Outline of Micah

- A. Title (1:1)
- B. First Cycle: Judgment and Restoration of Israel and Judah (Ch. 1-2)
- C. Second Cycle: Indictment of Judah's Leaders, but Future Hope for God's People (Chs. 3-5)
- D. Third Cycle: God's Charges against His People and the Ultimate Triumph of His Kingdom (Chapters 6-7)**
 - 1. God's Charges against His People (6:1 – 7:7)**
 - a) A divine covenant lawsuit (6:1-8)
 - b) Further charges and the sentence: Jerusalem is cursed (6:9-16)
 - c) A lament over a decadent society (7:1-7)
 - 2. The Ultimate Triumph of God's Kingdom: a liturgy (7:8-20)**
 - a) An expression of trust (7:8-10)
 - b) A promise of restoration (7:11-13)
 - c) A prayer, the Lord's answer, and the response (7:14-17)
 - d) A hymn of praise to God (7:18-20)

Notes for Chapters 6-7

- 6:1-8 – there are frequent shifts of speakers, from the Lord (v. 1), to the prophet (v. 2), the Lord again (vv. 3-5), a spokesperson for the community (vv. 6-7), then back to the prophet who delivers the punchline (v. 8). The audience is the heavenly court.
- V. 8 – a summary of a century of prophecy. (*'chesed'* = lovingkindness or covenant loyalty)
 - Amos 5:21-24
 - Hosea 6:6
 - Isaiah 1:11-17
- Micah 7:8-20 may have been intended for use in a liturgical context. It begins with a lament (vv. 8-10), then an oracle of encouragement (vv. 11-13), and concludes with an affirmation of God's mercy (14-20)

Resources

Notes from The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010

Notes from HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989