

Outline of Micah

Theme: The Coming Messiah will redeem and restore Israel

Key Verse: " But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

I. The Prophet Pronounced Impending Judgment (chs. 1-2)

A. Judgment will come upon Samaria and Judah (ch. 1)

1. Judgment will come against their high places (1:1-5)
2. Judgment will come against Samaria (1:6-7)
 - a. Their cities will be made heaps (6)
 - b. Their idols will be destroyed (7)
3. The prophet lamented over Samaria (1:8-16)
(note the play on words in this lament--See Freeman pp. 218-218)

B. Micah gives the reasons for the impending judgment (ch. 2)

1. They were guilty of land grabbing (2:1-5)
2:5--"cast a cord" a measuring cord by which land and inheritance were measured out
2. They were guilty of silencing the prophets (2:6-11)
 - a. They silenced the true prophets (6)
 - b. Yet will God be silenced? (7)
3. They behaved like enemies, robbing the people (2:8)
4. They cast out women and children (2:9)
5. Micah pleaded for their repentance (2:10)
6. They set up false prophets (2:11)
7. They were promised blessing (2:12-13)
(some critics place 2:12-13 into chapter 5)
--2:12 "Bozrah was the chief city of Edom, noted for large flocks of sheep.

II. The Present Rulers Are Rebuked, Future Rulers are Revealed (chs. 3-5)

A. The prophet rebuked Israel's rulers (ch. 3)

1. The civil rulers are rebuked for lack of justice (3:1-4)

a. A rhetorical question points to a lack of justice (1)

b. The rulers' injustice is rebuked (2-3)
(note the simile of cannibals)

c. Their punishment will come (4)

2. The prophets are rebuked for lack of truth (3:5-8)

a. Their errors are rebuked (5)

--they make the people err

--they bite with their teeth

-either to (1) destroy the people with false security

-or (2) live off of deceived people

--they proclaim a false message of peace

--they make war against God

b. Their punishment will be darkness and silence (6-7)

--the days of darkness: no vision

--the days of silence: no answer

c. Micah had authority from God (8)

--full of power by the Holy Spirit

--Inspiration of the Scripture (3:8-12)

3. Israel's rulers are rebuked for lack of honesty (3:9-12)

a. The rulers and princes are guilty (9-11a)

--they pervert equity

--they judge for reward

b. The prophets are guilty (11b)

--they divine for money

c. Their judgment will be the destruction of Jerusalem (3:12)

(this passage is quoted in Jer. 26:16)

B. The prophet reviews Israel's restoration (ch. 4)

1. The future kingdom will be glorious (4:1-5)

(cf. Isaiah 2:1-4)

(Note that the order of the events is reversed: Far first--near last)

a. Israel will be the center of world government (1)

- b. Israel will be the center of world religion (2)
 - c. The Messiah will establish world peace (3-4)
 - d. The LORD will be the object of world worship (5)
 - to be understood as a parenthesis, contrasting present conditions with future conditions:
 - "Though all the peoples (now) walk each on the name of His god, yet we will walk . . ."
2. A future restoration will occur before the Kingdom (4:6-8)
- a. The remnant will be regathered (6-7a)
 - b. The LORD will be their King (7b)
 - c. Jerusalem will be the world capitol (8)
 - "tower of the flock"
 - (1) interpreted as part of David's fortress in Jerusalem
 - "stronghold" = Ophel, one of Jerusalem's mountains
 - (2) interpreted as a "sheep enclosure"
 - Jerusalem is like a sheep enclosure--no protection from captivity (Davidson, et al.)
 - (3) interpreted as the Shepherd Tower of Bethlehem
 - refers to the 1st advent, note reference to Bethlehem in 5:2
 - no other tower of the flock mentioned in the OT
 - refers to the tower about 1 mile from Bethlehem (cf. Gen 35:21--same words)

3. A captivity will intervene followed by the promised redemption (4:9-10)
4. The gathered nations will be defeated (4:11-13)
 - a. Israel will "thresh" the nations
 - b. This may refer to the end of the Tribulation (Armageddon) --if so, it is out of order.

C. Israel's Redeemer is Previewed (ch. 5)

1. Messiah will be smitten with a rod (5:1)
2. Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (5:2)
3. Israel will be given up until Messiah's kingdom, when they will be regathered (5:3; cf. Rom. 11:1-25)
4. Messiah will reign as King (5:4-15)
 - a. He will be strengthened by the LORD (4)
 - b. He will establish peace (5)
 - c. He will waste Assyria (6)
 - d. He will waste the nations (7-8)
 - e. He will execute vengeance (9-15) against enemies, witchcraft, idols

III. The LORD Has a Controversy with Israel (chs. 6-7)

- A. The LORD'S first plea: Israel's actions are unprovoked (6:1-8)
 1. The LORD questioned Israel: What have I done against you (6:1-5)
 - a. I delivered you from Egyptian slavery
 - b. I delivered you from Balaam's curse
 2. Israel answered with disrespect (6:6-7)

--What kind of worship does the LORD desire?
 3. The LORD described true worship (6:8)
 - a. Live justly
 - b. Love mercy
 - c. Walk humbly with they God

- B. The LORD'S second plea: Shall God justify unrepentant Israel? (6:9-16)
 - 1. The Lord presented the question (9-12)
 - 2. The Lord presented the answer: No. Judgment is determined (13-16)
- C. The LORD'S Complaint: Israel is totally corrupt (7:1-6)
 - 1. There is none good--they are like "summer fruit" (1)
(cf. Psalm 14; 53)
 - 2. There is none upright (2)
 - 3. There is none with integrity (3)
--rulers take bribes
 - 4. The best is as a brier (4)
 - 5. There is none trustworthy (5)
 - 6. There is none loyal (6)
- D. Yet there is hope for the believing remnant (7:7-20)