

The Prophet Micah

Country-dweller from Moresheth-Gath, 25 to 30 miles SW of Jerusalem, near the Philistine border. Prophesying in the reigns of Jotham (a good king), Ahaz (a bad one), and Hezekiah (a good king), Micah was contemporary with Isaiah in Judah, and with Amos and Hosea in Israel.

Date of writing: Chapters 1-2 before the fall of Samaria/ Chapters 3-7 after fall of Samaria (since Judah is called “Israel” in these chapters (chs. 3-5 in the reign of Hezekiah—Jer.26:18; some think chs. 6-7 could describe the days of Manasseh)

Courtroom drama: God Vs. Israel & Judah

- 1:2 “witness”
- 6:1-2 “plead your case” “complaint”
- 6:3 “testify”
- 7:9 “pleads my case”

Influenced by Isaiah

1. Wounds incurable— 1:9/ 6:13 (Isaiah 1:5-6, etc.)
2. Baldness of mourning—1:16 (Isaiah 3:24)
3. Darkness/light motif—3:6/ 7:8 (Isaiah 9:2/ 13:10, etc.)
4. Zion’s exaltation— 4:1-3 (Isaiah 2:2-4)
5. Birth/labor motif — 4:9-10/ 5:3 (Isaiah 66:7-13) John 16:20ff
6. Messiah as shepherd— 5:4/ 7:14 (Isaiah 40:11)
7. Assyria representative of Gentiles—5:5-6 (Isaiah 19:24-25)
8. The fruitless vineyard— 7:1-2 (Isaiah 5:1-7)
9. The wicked liked to briars & thorns— 7:4 (Isaiah 55:13, etc.)
10. A Second Exodus— 7: 15, 19 (Isaiah 11:15-16, etc.)

Fondness for Wordplays:

- Micah (“Who is like Yahweh”) — 7:18
- 1:10-15 The names of cities conquered by Sennacherib mimicked in prophecies about them

Influence of Micah

- Micah 3:12 remembered and quoted 100 years after his time (Jer.26:18)
- Micah 5:2 Birth of Messiah in Bethlehem, quoted 700 years later (Matt.2:6)
- Micah 7:6 applied by Christ (Matt. 10:35-36)

Outline of Book: (Chapters 1, 3, and 6 introduce new oracles)

- I. Announcement of God coming to bring Israel and Judah to trial (1:1-5) and of the Assyrian invasion of Samaria and Jerusalem (1:6-16)
- II. Case against the rulers of Israel (2:1-5) and her false prophets (2:6-11), followed by a glimpse of the Messianic Age (2:12-13)
- III. Case against the rulers of Judah (3:1-4) and her false prophets (3:5-12), followed by a description of the Messianic Age (chapters 4 & 5)
- IV. Case against Jerusalem in particular (6:1—7:13), followed by prayer for the coming of the Messianic Age (7:14-20)