

Tapes For Growing Christians

Study Guide for
MICAH

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lesson 1

A Prediction of the Fall of Samaria, the Capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel; and A Prediction of the Fall of Jerusalem, the Capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah Micah 1:1-16

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

- 1.The fall of Samaria was predicted.
- 2.The fall of Jerusalem was predicted.

practical application

- 1.Are you willing to be embarrassed for the Lord?

Questions

- 1.Which prophet in the Old Testament predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?
- 2.The divided kingdoms:
 - a.Name the capital of the Northern Kingdom.
 - b.Name the capital of the Southern Kingdom.
- 3.Micah had a long period of ministry. About how long?
- 4.In which kingdom did Micah minister?
- 5.What does it mean when we say that Micah was a pre-exilic prophet?
- 6.Micah predicts the fall of two cities. Which two cities?
- 7Who is called upon to be a witness of the Lord's just judgment? See Micah 1:2.
- 8.See Micah 1:3. What were the high places and what was their purpose?
- 9.See Micah 1:5. What is meant by the transgression of Jacob?

Answers

1. Micah. See Micah 5:2
2. a. Samaria
b. Jerusalem
3. At least fifty years.
4. Primarily in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, but his ministry did extend to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
5. His ministry was before the Jews went into exile as captives in Babylon.
6. Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
7. All nations are called upon to be a witness of the Lord's just judgment.
8. They were places with altars and shrines used for idolatrous worship.
9. Samaria's sins included worshipping at the high places of idolatry and prostitution.

discuss / consider

1. Because of idolatry and immorality and social injustice both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom came under the judgment of God. The Northern Kingdom of Israel, whose capital was Samaria, was conquered by the Assyrian Empire in 722 B.C. This was predicted by Micah and the prophecy was fulfilled in his lifetime. What about today? Can you name some "high places" in our nation? Has our nation played the harlot, seeking gods other than the one true God? Can you identify the "high places" in your life? Remember, God's judgment must fall and will fall on all who seek other gods.
2. Not too many years after the fall of Samaria, the Assyrians made their move against Jerusalem and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. They conquered the outlying cities that ringed Jerusalem and they fought their way to the very gates of Jerusalem, but they never conquered that city. They were given a reprieve because of King Hezekiah's prayers. Judah, however, continued to go downhill both morally and spiritually. Thus the Lord permitted the Babylonians, under King Nebuchadnezzar to weep in and conquer Jerusalem in 586 B.C. So the fall of Jerusalem did take place as predicted by Micah.
There are some lessons here for us today. God's righteous judgment condemns places and people who do not honor the Lord and who fail to return to Him after His warnings. Another lesson is that the prayer of a godly person can stay the Lord's hand of judgment. See 2 Chronicles 32:24-26 and James 5:16-18.

Challenge

See Micah 1:8. The prophet Micah, in order to dramatically emphasize the terrible conditions of the coming invasions, did a role play. This would have been pretty embarrassing for him. Would you be willing to be embarrassed for the Lord? He might ask you, for example, to give your testimony on a street corner or on an airplane. Would you be willing to be embarrassed for the Lord? What about praying, thanking God for your food in a public restaurant? Is this standard practice for you?

Memorize

"Hear, all ye peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it. Let the Lord God be a witness against you..." Micah 1:2

"Behold, the Lord is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread the high places of the earth." Micah 1:3

"...I will make Samaria a heap of ruins..." Micah 1:6

"...disaster came down from the Lord to the gate of Jerusalem." Micah 1:12

lesson 2

One of the big Reasons for God's Judgment of Judah: Social Injustice And Some Good News: The Restoration of Israel in the Future Micah 2:1-13

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

1. God will judge the sins of social injustice.
2. God will restore the remnant of Israel.

practical application

1. Let's all do what we can to strengthen the family unit.

Questions

1. Which other prophet was a contemporary of Micah?
2. Quote the well-known prophecy of the future as prophesied by both prophets.
3. Both prophets ministered in the same kingdom. Which kingdom was it?
4. Within this kingdom, where was each ministry concentrated?
5. Why is Micah sometimes referred to as the Amos of the south?
6. Refer to Micah 2:12-13. How is the Messiah seen here in a three-fold fullness for Israel?

Answers

- 1.The prophet Isaiah.
- 2."They shall beat their swords into plowshare and their spears into pruning hooks." Micah 4:3 and Isaiah 2:4.
- 3.The Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- 4.Isaiah's ministry was concentrated or centered more in the capital of Jerusalem.Micah's ministry was concentrated more in the country.
5. Because he spoke out against the social injustice, the social sins in the Southern Kingdom of Judah as Amos had preached out against the social injustice and the social sins of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- 6.The Messiah is seen here in a three-fold fullness for Israel:
 - as their Shepherd who will lead them and remove the obstacles before them
 - as their King
 - as their Lord God

discuss / consider

- 1.One of the big reasons why God would have to judge His people was social injustice. In Micah 2:1-2, we see that the people were so materialistic that they would lie awake at night and plot how to gain more for themselves, even if it involved using force and oppressing the poor people. Question: Do you ever lie awake at night and plot how to take advantage of someone, or oppress someone, or get someone back for what they said or did against you? This is sin, and God will judge us for that sin.
- 2.Even though Israel had turned away from the Lord and committed gross sin, yet God in His grace will restore a godly remnant in the future. What a great day that will be! Do you rejoice for Israel in the knowledge that they will return to the land and to the Lord?

Challenge

Refer to Micah 2:9. The broken homes and disrupted families took away from the glory of God. The same is true today. The family unit is to reflect the glory of God's family, where there is love, fellowship, authority, respect and honor. Our families should model God's family. This is so important because the family unit is the foundation of the nation. Think of ways in which you can strengthen your family unit.

Memorize

"Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it...they covet...take by violence...oppress people." Micah 2:1-2

"Is the Spirit of the Lord restricted?" Micah 2:7

"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel..." Micah 2:12

lesson 3

A Denunciation of Evil Rulers and False Prophets Micah 3:1-12

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

- 1.The Lord will not answer those who practice evil.
- 2.The Lord will not guide those who proclaim falsehood.
- 3.The Lord will not protect those who promote injustice.

practical application

- 1.Don't have a limited view of what it means to be filled with the Spirit.

Questions

- 1.A simple outline of the prophecy of Micah would be three messages of judgment and deliverance. In which chapters are these three messages found?
- 2.See Micah 1:2; 3:1; 6:1. How does each exhortation begin?
- 3.How were the leaders and rulers of Judah treating the people?
- 4.Why didn't the Lord answer the cry of the leaders and rulers of Judah?
- 5.See Micah 3:11. What are the three types of persons noted for distorting justice?

Answers

1. Message #1 – Chapters 1-2

Message #2 – Chapters 3-5 Message #3 – Chapters 6-7

2. Each exhortation begins with the words, “Hear (the word of the Lord)...”

3. They were treating them like animals. See Micah 3:2-3.

4. Because of their treatment of the people.

5. Judges, priests and prophets.

discuss / consider

1. The Lord did not hear the cry of the leaders and rulers of Judah because of the way they treated the people. He hid His face, as it were, when He allowed the Babylonians to come in and conquer Judah. Is it possible that the Lord is not hearing your prayers right now? How are you treating others in your family, at work, within the fellowship?

2. False prophets were denounced because they did not preach the truth. Rather, they preached what people wanted to hear and were willing to pay for. Is the same true today? Think of the lies proclaimed from some of the pulpits today. The Lord will denounce those who proclaim falsehood.

3. The governing authorities of Micah’s day were denounced for perverting justice and for distorting all that was right. Think of our own nation and how the standards for moral decency have been changed and distorted. And the judges were denounced for taking bribes. How applicable this is today. Sins of social injustice have their consequences and will be denounced by the Lord.

Memorize

“Hear now, O heads of Jacob, and you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice? You who hate good and love evil...” Micah 3:1-2

“Then they will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them... because they have been evil in their deeds.” Micah 3:4

“...the prophets make My people stray...” Micah 3:5

“Truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.” Micah 3:8

“Her heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money...” Micah 3:11

“Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins...” Micah 3:12

lesson 4

The Good News of Israel's future Micah 4:1-13

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

- 1.The Lord will restore and renew the peace of Israel.
- 2.The Lord will rescue and redeem the people of Israel.

practical application

- 1.Let prophecy change your character.

Questions

- 1.Refer to the phrase “latter days” in Micah 4:1. When are the latter days?
2. In the same verse, is the Lord's house the church today?
- 3.When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom here on earth where will He have His headquarters?
- 4.When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom on this earth, what will that kingdom be known as?
- 5.Micah predicts four events which would have to take place before the realization of the restored godly remnant and the glorious kingdom of the last days. List these four events.

Answers

- 1.This refers to the time of the Lord's second coming.
- 2.No. It is the temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem in the future when the Lord returns.
- 3.In Jerusalem, which will become the capital of the world.
4. The Millennial Kingdom of Christ, because it will last 1,000 years. See Revelation 20:1.
- 5.The four events: 1) the Jews would go as captives to Babylon, 2)the Jews would return from their captivity in Babylon, 3)many nations will be gathered against Israel, and 4) Israel will be victorious.

discuss / consider

- 1."They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." Micah 4:3.
This verse is inscribed on the entrance to the United Nations as an incentive for peace, but it will not be fulfilled by the U.N It will only be fulfilled when the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom on this earth.
The Lord alone is the prince of peace. The Lord will restore and renew the peace of Israel. Peace will extend beyond Jerusalem and the restored nation of Israel to the whole world. Can you imagine a world like this? He will make it happen.
- 2.In Micah 4:6-8, there is a promise and a prediction that the Lord will rescue and bring back a godly remnant to the land of Israel and make them a strong nation. Then the times of the Gentiles will have run their course. See Luke 21: 24.
- 3.Review the four events which would have to take place before the realization of the restored godly remnant and the glorious kingdom of the last days. (See answer #5)

challenge

- 1.What is your response to the study of prophecy? The study of prophecy should change your character. When we realize what's going to take place in the future, we should be motivated now to serve the Lord more faithfully. All our material possessions and earthly interests will mean nothing then. Let's wisely use our time and talent and treasure now.

Memorize

"Now it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it." Micah 4:1

"Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'" Micah 4:2

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation..." Micah 4:3

"...we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever." Micah 4:5

"Now many nations have gathered against you...but they do not know the thoughts of the Lord..." Micah 4:11-12

lesson 5

**A Great Messianic Chapter: A Prediction of the Birthplace of the Messiah and
A Clear Statement of the Deity and Humanity of Christ
Micah 5:1-15**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

- 1.The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem at His first coming.
- 2.The Messiah will deliver Israel at His second coming.

practical application

- 1.Have you received the bread from Bethlehem?

Questions

- 1.Where would the Messiah be born?
2. Read the quote in Matthew 2:6. Where is this found in the Old Testament?
- 3.By whom was this prophecy quoted in Matthew 2:6, and for what reason?
- 4.What is the meaning of the phrase, "They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek?" (Micah 5:1)
- 5.Who was the judge of Israel in this passage? How was he stricken with a rod on the cheek?
- 6.When the Lord returns, He will deliver Israel in four different ways. List these ways.
7. What is the meaning of the name of Bethlehem?

Answers

1. In Bethlehem Ephrathah, located 5-6 miles south of Jerusalem.
2. Micah 5:2.
3. It was quoted by the chief priests and scribes to Herod in reference to the request of the wise men as to where the king of the Jews was born. Herod relayed this message to the wise men and they went and found the Lord in Bethlehem.
4. It is a sign of greatest humiliation.
5. King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. The Babylonians killed King Zedekiah's sons before his very eyes, and then they blinded him and took him as a prisoner to Babylon. Read about this in 2 Kings 25.
6. The Lord will deliver Israel 1) from the coming Assyrian, 2)
7. Bethlehem means house of bread.

discuss / consider

1. Bethlehem was only a small town in Judah, yet out of Bethlehem would come the Messiah. It was not what man would consider to be a great place, a noted place. God loves to take the obscure and use it for His glory. Whether it be people or places, nothing is too small for the Lord to take up and make significant. Do you feel small and insignificant? The Lord will use you in great ways if you give yourself to Him in His service.
2. Notice how the full humanity and full deity of the Messiah is brought out in Micah 5:2. He would be born as a baby in Bethlehem. Yet this would not be His beginning. His goings forth are from old, including His pre-incarnate appearances in the Old Testament. Consider the humanity and deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. There's coming a time in the future when a godly remnant will be born out of the secular state of Israel and Israel will be restored once again to a position of the Lord's favor. The "she" of Micah 5:3 is the nation of Israel and the birth of the godly remnant of Jewish believers in the future. When the Lord returns, He will deliver Israel from all her enemies, from all warfare and from idolatry. Praise Him!
4. "...He shall give them up until..." (Micah 5:3). See also Romans 11. Israel has been set aside temporarily from God's place of favor, while the Gentiles are brought into a place of privilege. Discuss what this means for both the Gentiles and the Jews.

Challenge

1. The name Bethlehem means house of bread. The Lord Jesus said in John 6 that He was the bread of life. Have you received the bread of life as the only means of satisfying your spiritual hunger?
2. Recall the reference in Matthew 23:23, where Micah 5:2 was quoted. These chief priests and scribes knew the word, but they didn't act on it or live by it. The wise men, on the other hand believed the word and by faith acted on the word of God, and they found the Lord. This could be a lesson for us today. Know the word, believe by faith and act on the word and live by it. Then you will find the Lord.

Memorize

"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 going forth are from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2

"Therefore He shall give them up until..." Micah 5:3

"Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst..." Micah 5:7

"You shall no more worship the work of your hands..." Micah 5:13

lesson 6

The Beginning of Micah's Third Message of Judgment and Deliverance Micah 6:1-16

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

1. The Lord's requirements are consistent with His character.
2. The Lord's judgments are consistent with His character.

practical application

1. It's never wrong to wonder why you are sick.

questions

1. List the chapters in Micah that are associated with his messages:
Message #1 – Chapters _____ Message #2 – Chapters _____ Message #3 – Chapters _____
2. Each message consists of two parts. Name these two parts.
3. In the judgment part of Chapter 6, there are two indictments or lawsuits of the Lord against Israel because of sin. In Micah 6:1-2, who does the Lord call on to be a jury and listen to both sides of the dispute?
4. What was Israel's response to the Lord's first indictment?
5. What is the Lord not looking for as people come to worship?
6. What is the Lord looking for as stated in Micah 6:8?

answers

1. Message #1 – Chapters 1-2

Message #2 – Chapters 3-5 Message #3 – Chapters 6-7

2. A judgment part and a deliverance part.

3. The mountains.

4. The people were penitent, a good response.

5. The Lord is not looking for thousands of animal sacrifices, nor does he want human sacrifices.

6. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

discuss / consider

1. The response of the godly remnant in the future when Israel returns to the Lord will be one of penitence. Read Micah 6:8. This is what the Lord is looking for in His people, both then and today. Use this as a check list concerning your character. Does your character reflect God's character?

2. Read Micah 6:9-16. This is the second indictment of the Lord against Israel. The Lord indicates that He will have to bring down the rod of discipline on Israel because of her sins. The businessmen were dishonest and cheating the people. God will judge such people, both then and today, because true to His character, He must judge sin. Is there any way in which you have been dishonest with others? If so, confess your sin to God and make it right with anyone you've cheated.

challenge

1. God can use sickness as a form of discipline. See Micah 6:16 and 1 Corinthians 11:30. As a believer, it is never wrong to wonder why you are sick. However, don't jump to the conclusion that every time you are sick you are under God's discipline. There are many reasons for sickness, but it is never wrong to examine your life to make sure that your practice matches your profession. See Psalm 139:23-24.

memorize

"Hear, O you mountains, the Lord's complaint... He will contend with Israel." Micah 6:2

"O My people... how have I wearied you? O My people, remember... that you may know the righteousness of the Lord." Micah 6:3-5

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

"Hear the rod! Who has appointed it?" Micah 6:9

"You shall eat, but not be satisfied... you shall sow, but not reap..." Micah 6:14-15

lesson 7

**The Confession of the Godly Remnant of Israel
and the Blessing that Will Come Upon Israel in the Future
Micah 7:1-20**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching points

1. The godly remnant of Israel will acknowledge the sins of the nation.
2. The godly remnant of Israel will experience the blessings of God.

practical application

1. Have you experienced God's more than a pardoned love?

Questions

1. Why is Micah called a minor prophet?
2. What does Micah's name mean?
3. God brought two indictments against Israel. The response of the people to the first indictment was one of penitence. What was their response to the second indictment?
4. For whom was Micah speaking as representative in Micah 7:1-10?
5. What is the time known as Jacob's trouble?

Answers

1. Because his book is small compared to the major prophets, but that does not mean that his message is of lesser importance.
2. Micah's name means, "who is like the Lord."
3. One of penitence.
4. Micah voiced the confession of the godly remnant of Israel. He was speaking as representative of the godly Jews in Judah who were sorry for their sins and who had repented of their wrong doing.
5. The coming tribulation period.

discuss / consider

1. Micah spoke as a representative of the godly Jews in Judah who were sorry for their sins and who had repented of their wrong doing. The godly remnant in Micah's day is typical of the godly remnant that will exist in Israel in the last days before the Lord's return. The godly remnant does not take their own revenge. They know that if they just wait for the Lord, He will please their case and execute justice and righteously subdue their enemies. Although this passage and this prophecy have to do the Jews, we can take a lesson in acknowledging our sins and waiting for the Lord to avenge.
2. The godly remnant of Micah's day were few and far between. Things were so bad that the people were treating each other like animals, leaders and judges could be bought off by bribes, and family relationships had broken down. Is there a parallel in our nation today? What is your part in this kind of behavior?
3. When the Lord returns, he will restore and bless the nation of Israel on behalf of the godly remnant. This is the time of the Lord's millennial kingdom here on earth. not only the Jews will have returned to the land, but the godly of all nations will come to Jerusalem for blessing because the Lord will be there. he will lead His people as a perfect Shepherd. Selah!
4. What about the time of tribulation? What about the ungodly? See Micah 7:13. The day of judgment is coming as well as a future day of blessing. See Philippians 2:9-10. Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? Have you bowed the knee, receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Challenge

1. Read Micah 7:18-10, "Who is a God like You..." These verses are read in the synagogues of orthodox Jews on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. and these verses will be part of the godly remnants' confession of faith in the future when they acknowledge Christ as their Messiah.
These verses are applicable for us today. The Lord has not only pardoned us for our sins and iniquities, but He has cast all our sins in the depths of the sea; He has removed them completely. See Psalm 103:12 and Jeremiah 31:34. All of these blessings have been extended to us who have trusted in Christ. "Who is a God like You...?"

Memorize

"...there is no one upright among men." Micah 7:2

"I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me." Micah 7:7

"When I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me...He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness." Micah 7:8-9

"Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...He delights in mercy, He will again have compassion on us... and will cast all our sins into the depth of the sea..." Micah 7:18-19