



Summary of Micah

Introduction

Micah writes in order to bring God's 'lawsuit' against his people (3:8). He indicts Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins (1:2-7), with both Assyria (5:5-6) and Babylon (4:10) looming as instruments of the divine sentence.

Micah prophesied to Israel and Judah during the decades just before the fall of Samaria through the time of King Hezekiah of Judah. Micah witnessed the destruction of Israel by the rising Assyrian empire, yet he probably also witnessed the Lord's dramatic rescue of Jerusalem from the Assyrians during Hezekiah's reign.

Chapter One

Following the introduction of where Micah comes from, the period in which he prophesied and his target audience, the prophecy then opens with the pronouncement of judgement on Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom (vv.2-7), with attention then switching to Judah in the south (vv.8-16).

Chapter Two

The warning goes out to the leaders and influential people who are devising evil deeds for the Lord is devising a plan to come against them. The plan is to take away the land of Canaan that he had graciously given to his people and hand it over to invading armies. There are those who blame this outcome on the Lord but he had sent his prophets to warn them and they had not listened. Thus they will go into exile. However, the chapter ends with a promise to gather back a remnant who will be led by their Shepherd-King.

Chapter Three

The abuse of power (vv.1-4) and flagrant misuse of prophetic office (vv.5-8) is followed by a general indictment of the leadership, followed by the sentence (vv.9-12).

Chapter Four

Micah looks forward to a day not only when the remnant of Israel will be restored to their former glory but a time when all nations shall come before God to worship him. It will be a time of peace and prosperity for all.

However, before that time the people of Judah will go into Babylonian exile. In fact, there will be many nations that come against Israel, yet it is God's plan that his people will prevail against them.

Chapter Five

A new hope for Israel, and for the whole world, comes by means of a new David. His deeds are praised (vv.1-6), and the influence of the remnant among the nations is described (vv.7-9). The chapter concludes with divine removal of all idolatries (vv.10-15).

Chapter Six

Micah calls upon the Lord to make his case against his publicly before all of creation. This was the God that had brought them out of Egypt and stopped them being cursed by Balaam. What had God ever done to deserve their apostasy? Can the people put it right with offerings? No! All God requires is for them to be just, loving and humble.

The condemnation of the people is strong for they are cheats in business, liars and prone to violence. Because they have followed the ways of wicked kings rather than God they will become a desolate nation. God will judge the wicked.

Chapter Seven

The nation has become corrupt bringing about social disorder, injustice and want. Yet there remains hope because of God. On those who repent God will have mercy. Micah foresees a time when those who have been taken off into exile will be brought back by God and come under his sovereign care once more. The prophecy concludes with a summary of God's enduring character and understanding that he will be faithful to his covenant promises.