

GOD'S PROPHETS WARNED

CORE PASSAGE: MICAH 5:1-5; 6:6-8; 7:8-9,18-20

CONTEXT

During the reigns of Judah's kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, God sent the prophet Micah with a message for both Israel and Judah. Micah spoke the word of the Lord and foretold the judgment, destruction, and exile that was coming for both Israel and Judah. Both kingdoms had failed to keep the Lord's covenant and would continue to do so, with a few exceptions from Judah's kings, such as Hezekiah and Josiah. But Micah also had a message for the future, a message of hope and restoration. Micah prophesied that the Messiah-King would come to shepherd God's people in righteousness forever.

KEY CONCEPT

Though there is a future judgment, there is also a future hope.

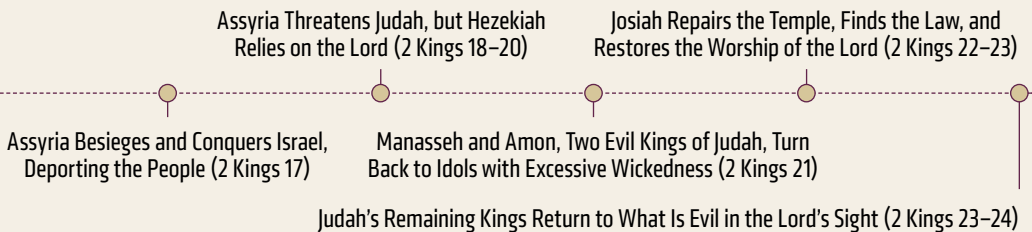
As you examine Micah 5:1-5; 6:6-8; 7:8-9,18-20:

- Emphasize God's desire for His people to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with Him.
- Recognize that disobedience results in judgment, but God's grace and mercy abound as well.



TIMELINE

SESSION STUDY: Micah Prophecies to Israel and Judah (Micah 1–7)



Daily Readings

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| ☐ Day 1: Micah 1–7 | ☐ Day 4: Nahum 1–3 |
| ☐ Day 2: Isaiah 40–54 | ☐ Day 5: Zephaniah 1–3 |
| ☐ Day 3: Isaiah 55–66 | ☐ Day 6: Psalm 73 |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

MICAH 5:1-6; 6:6-8

AMID JUDGMENT, THERE IS A FUTURE HOPE OF THE ONE WHO WILL BRING PEACE.

Underline the prophecies that point to the exile that would be coming.

Circle the prophecies that point to Jesus.

1 Now, daughter who is under attack, you slash yourself in grief; a siege is set against us! They are striking the judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod. **2** Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times. **3** Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of the ruler's brothers will return to the people of Israel. **4** He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD his God. They will live securely, for then his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. **5** He will be their peace. When Assyria invades our land, when it marches against our fortresses, we will raise against it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men. **6** They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with a drawn blade. So he will rescue us from Assyria when it invades our land, when it marches against our territory.

6 What should I bring before the LORD when I come to bow before God on high? Should I come before him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves? **7** Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the offspring of my body for my own sin? **8** Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Key Concept: Though there is a future judgment, there is also a future hope.

The book of Micah is listed in our Bibles in the division of the Minor Prophets, but the term “minor” only refers to the length of their message, not the significance of it. The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Hosea and Isaiah, and his message from God was directed to the cities of Samaria (Israel) and Jerusalem (Judah).

Micah’s prophecy in chapter 5 opens with Jerusalem being attacked by her enemies. At one point, Assyria was on Jerusalem’s doorstep, but the future threat of Babylon may also have been in mind.¹ (“Nimrod” in v. 6 was associated with both Assyria and Babylon; see Genesis 10:8-12.) More important than the attacker, however, was the Lord’s promised help—the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This Shepherd-King would be born in Bethlehem from the line of David, and He would be a ruler for Israel over the whole earth. This Messiah is the hope and peace of all God’s people to rescue them from their enemies.

How has Jesus, the Messiah, brought peace into your life?

In Micah 6:6-8, we see the people of Judah question what God required of them. Verses 6-7 list various offerings someone could make because of their sin. The people even wondered if they should sacrifice a firstborn son for their sins, a pagan, idolatrous practice that God forbade (Jeremiah 19:5). The only firstborn son the Lord ever required as a sacrifice was His own—the sinless, only begotten Son of God, who died on the cross and rose again to cover our sins.

In verse 8, Micah listed what God actually required of His people. God did not want perpetual blood offerings or sacrifices, nor did He require magnificent feats for His name. The Lord wanted His people to act in a way that was good, right, and fair, to love faithfulness to God and one another, and to live in humble submission to God and with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Micah tells of the One who would come from Bethlehem to shepherd the people and be their peace. This is one of the prophecies about Jesus, who came to be the Good Shepherd and the Prince of Peace.

What might it look like for you to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with God?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

MICAH 7:8-9,18-20

EVIL WOULD BE JUDGED, BUT GOD WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A WAY OF SALVATION.

Circle the contrasting phrases in the passage. Then highlight the actions God takes to champion for His people.

8 Do not rejoice over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will stand up; though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. **9** Because I have sinned against him, I must endure the LORD's fury until he champions my cause and establishes justice for me. He will bring me into the light; I will see his salvation. . . . **18** Who is a God like you, forgiving iniquity and passing over rebellion for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not hold on to his anger forever because he delights in faithful love. **19** He will again have compassion on us; he will vanquish our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. **20** You will show loyalty to Jacob and faithful love to Abraham, as you swore to our ancestors from days long ago.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

THE GOSPEL: The gospel is both an event and a story. First, it is an event that took place in history, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners (1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Second, it is also the story of redemption that God planned “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4), which runs through Scripture and culminates in a restored and redeemed creation—a new heaven and new earth where sin, death, and suffering will never again plague humanity, and God’s people will live with Him forever (Isaiah 25:8; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21). The event and story do not exist apart from or in conflict with one another but together inspire us to a life of devotion and mission.

Key Concept: Though there is a future judgment, there is also a future hope.



At this point in the book of Micah, Jerusalem was experiencing moral destitution. Evil was prevalent, and Micah felt like the only righteous person left (vv. 1-2). The Lord's impending judgment on the nation was certain because of their sin and disobedience (v. 9). And yet, Micah declared that those who repented would see the Lord's salvation.

While punishment for sin is inevitable, Micah encouraged the people, saying that God had not completely turned away from them. He would allow their enemies to take them into exile, but in His mercy, God would bring them back to the land. He would provide the way for them to be restored to Him again.

How have you experienced God's promise of restoration for His people?

Despite the sins of the people, God would not abandon the promise He made to Israel. God's faithfulness to forgive sin and have compassion on His people is an essential attribute—it is tied to His name (Exodus 34:5-7). Micah praised the Lord for His uniqueness in love, grace, and forgiveness to remind the people of who God is so they could have hope in their coming exile.

How should you address your struggles with sin in light of God's faithfulness and forgiveness?

Micah 7:18-20 uses many action verbs, and most of them are God's actions in response to the sins of the people. God does not hang their sins over their head forever, but when they repent, He forgives, passes over, does not hold on to, vanquishes, and casts their sins into the sea. To use this many descriptions of how God would forget their sin shows how much Micah wanted to emphasize God's eternal covenant-keeping that endures.

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“There is no greater state than to get up from your knees knowing that in God's sight you are clean, that He has forgiven every sin you've ever committed.”²

—R. C. Sproul (1939–2017)

JUDGMENT AND MERCY

Read the passages below and compare God's holy judgment to His loving compassion.

GOD'S HOLY JUDGMENT

GOD'S LOVING COMPASSION

MICAH 5:1-6

MICAH 6:6-8

MICAH 7:8-9

MICAH 7:18-20

Why is it important for our sharing of the gospel to speak the truth about God, that He is both the righteous judge and the giver of mercy?

Key Concept: Though there is a future judgment, there is also a future hope.



HEAD

What are some reasons we fail to deal with our sin as we should?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 73, allowing God to convict you of the sins you are envying and the ones you are currently struggling with. Confess these sins to God. Then pray through verses 21-28, reflecting on the forgiveness and faithfulness of God.



HEART

How do you need the Lord to be your light, your champion, your justice, and your salvation today?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How can you use opportunities to forgive to share the gospel and point others to Jesus Christ?

