

A LOOK AT THE BOOK MICAH

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AUTHOR AND DATE

Micah was born in Moresheth, near Gath, which is 20 miles west of Jerusalem.

He served as a prophet in Judah during the reigns of Jotham (739-731 B.C.), Ahaz (731-715), and Hezekiah (715-686).

He would have been a contemporary of Isaiah (739-686)

Micah was apparently raised in humble surroundings.

He continually identifies with and appeals to the common people and peasants. Compare his situation with Isaiah who was always in the royal court and spent time with kings.

Micah mainly prophesied before the reforms in Judah, and before the fall of Israel, since he mentions neither.

Therefore, His prophecies should probably be dated between about 735 and 725.

BACKGROUND

The setting is a condition of immorality and idolatry in both Israel and Judah.

Both are rapidly heading toward judgment and destruction unless they repent.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The theme of the book is that God demands righteousness and faithfulness from His people.

Because they failed in this, both kingdoms are headed for destruction, unless they repent.

Following the judgment, God will remain faithful to them and restore them.

His purpose is to call God's people to repentance so they will return to Him and experience His blessing.

MICAHA

God demands justice and faithfulness

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1st Message 1-2	2nd Message 3-5	3rd Message 6-7
Addressed to all peoples	Addressed to the leaders of Israel	Addressed to all the earth
JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL	PROMISE OF RESTORATION	YAHWEH'S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL
Introduction 1:1	Condemnation of the Leaders 3:1-12	Legal Proceedings 6:1-16
Announcement of Judgment 1:2-5	Rulers 3:1-4	Call for Witnesses 6:1-2
Result of the Judgment 1:6-16	Prophets 3:5-8	Invitation to Accuse God 6:3-4
Cause of the Judgment 2:1-11	Leaders in General 3:9-12	God's Requirements 6:5-8
Promise of the Judgment 2:12-13	Establishment of the Kingdom 4-5	Israel's Failure 6:9-12
	Conditions in the Kingdom 4:1-8	Coming Judgment 6:13-16
	Preparation of the Nations 4:9-5:1	Resultant Lament 7:1-10
	Coming of the Messiah 5:2-15	Lament over Israel's Condition 7:1-6
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		Promise of Restoration 7:11-20
		Liberty from Foreign Domination 7:11-17
		Forgiveness and Restoration 7:18-20