

Introduction to Micah

Author: Micah

Date: 740-687 B.C.

Author and Date: Micah was from **Moresheth-gath**, a city of Judah located about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem, near the Philistine city of Gath (see the [Map of Israel and Judah](#)). The name **Micah** is a shortened form of Micaiah, which literally means, “*Who is like the LORD?*”¹ (see Mic. 7:18).

Micah clearly identified the time in which he lived and prophesied in the first verse of his book: “*The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.*” The reigns of those three kings covered the years 740-687 B.C. It is important to note that this was the time period immediately preceding and following the fall of Samaria and the rest of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah and Hosea (see Isa. 1:1; Hos. 1:1).

Even though Micah lived in Judah, his prophecy was directed toward both the Northern Kingdom of Israel (represented by its capital **Samaria**) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (represented by its capital **Jerusalem** – see Mic. 1:1; see also the [Map of Israel and Judah](#)). Some of his prophecies concern the Jewish people as a whole.

Theme: Micah’s prophecy includes warnings of coming judgment at the hand of the Lord, as well as promises of future restoration and forgiveness.

General Outline: Micah’s prophecy can easily be divided into three major sections, each of which begins with the admonition to **HEAR** the LORD’s message (Mic. 1:2; 3:1; 6:1).

1. The first section (chapters 1 and 2) primarily contains warnings to the sinners that the Lord was coming to judge them.
2. The second of the three sections includes warnings to Israel’s wicked leaders (chapter 3), descriptions of Israel’s future Kingdom (chapter 4), and promises of Israel’s eternal King and Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ (chapter 5).
3. In the last section of Micah’s prophecy we are invited as witnesses into God’s courtroom where sinful Israel stands trial (chapter 6). The Lord also makes many promises of Israel’s future restoration and forgiveness (chapter 7).

¹ *The MacArthur Study Bible*