Lesson 11: Ahaz & Micah

Read: 2 Kings 16, 2 Chronicles 28, Micah, Isaiah 7:1-9

**WHY & WHEN?**

Micah spoke mainly to Judah in the same time period as Hosea warned Israel and his task was to warn them of the coming judgment on Judah. In sharp contrast to Amos & Hosea is offered hope of restoration and better days. Micah called, from his rustic home, to deliver a stern message of judgment to the princes and people of Jerusalem. Burdened by the abusive treatment of the poor by the rich and influential, the prophet turns his verbal rebukes upon anyone who would use their social or political power for personal gain. Much of his ministry, therefore, took place before the Assyrian captivity of Israel in 722 B.C. His strong denunciations of idolatry and immorality also suggest that his ministry largely preceded the sweeping religious reforms of Hezekiah. His strong denunciations of idolatry and immorality also suggest that his ministry largely occurred during the rule of Ahaz, one of the wickedest kings of Judah. Thus, Micah’s prophecies ranged from about 735 to 710 B.C. He was also contemporary of Isaiah in the court of Jerusalem. Micah focused on moral and social problems while Isaiah placed greater stress on world affairs and political concerns. One-third of Micah’s book exposes the sins of his countrymen; another third pictures the punishment God is about to send; and the final third holds out the hope of restoration once that discipline has ended. Through it all, God’s righteous demands upon His people are clear: “to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (6:8).

**WHO?**

Ahaz was an evil man who participated in the most monstrous of idolatrous practices.

2 Kings 16 & 2 Chronicles 28

2 – Did not do what was right in eyes of Lord
1 – Did not do what was right in eyes of Lord
3 – Walked in ways of Kings of Israel
2 – Walked in ways of Kings of Israel
3 – Burned his son as an offering
2 – Made metal images of Baal
4 – Sacrificed high places, hills, under every tree
3 made offering in Valley of Hinnom
3 burned his son as an offering
10-13 – Made altar like one in Damascus
4 – Sacrificed high places, hills, under every tree

23 sacrificed to gods of Damascus

24 shut up doors of house of the Lord
24 made altars in every corner of Jerusalem
25 in every city of Judah he made high places

Based on your experience trying to help friends keep out of trouble what might you say to help Ahaz?

Isaiah gave counsel to Ahaz during the Syro-Ephraimitic crisis (Isaiah 7), when Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, joined forces to attack Jerusalem. Ahaz refused the prophet’s advice and appealed for help to Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria. That appeal and the resulting entanglement had unfortunate results religiously and politically in that Ahaz surrendered to Assyrian domination. The prophet Oded rescued some captives from Israel (2 Chron.28).
2 Chronicles 28:25 (ESV)
25 In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the Lord, the God of his fathers.

2 Chronicles 28:19-20 (ESV)
19 For the Lord humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had made Judah act sinfully and had been very unfaithful to the Lord. 20 So Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him.

2 Chronicles 28:4-6 (ESV)
4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. 5 Therefore the Lord his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force. 6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers.
Judah, repent of injustice and idolatry or else go into exile

Key Verses

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Prophets and Kings

Outline - Micah

I. Judgment 1:1-3:12
   A. Judgment on People (1:1-2:13)
   B. Judgment on Leaders (3:1-3:12)

II. Promises of Restoration 4:1-5:15
   A. Promise of Coming Kingdom (4:1-4:5)
   B. Promise of Coming Captivity (4:6-5:1)
   C. Promise of Coming King (5:2-5:15)

III. Plea for Repentance 6:1-7:20
   A. First Plea of God (6:1-6:9)
   B. Second Plea of God (6:10-7:6)
   C. Promise of Final Salvation (7:7-7:20)

Common Prophetic Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prophetic Element</th>
<th>Summarize Verses</th>
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<tr>
<td>In Control – thus says</td>
<td>1:2 Lord from Holy Temple 6:1 Hear what Lord says</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chosen people</td>
<td>6:2 His people 6:4-5,7:15 Brought up from Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebellion</td>
<td>1:5 High places in Judah 1:9 Sins of Israel come to Judah 2:1 Workout evil to do on their beds 2:2 Take fields by violence 2:8 People risen as enemy of Lord 3:2 Hate good and love evil 3:9 Leaders abhor justice 6:6-7 Regard Lord’s sacrifice a burden 6:11 Deceitful weights 6:12 Speak lies 6:16 All the works of Ahab done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judgment to come</td>
<td>1:3 Lord will tread on high places 1:4 Melt mountains 1:6 Samaria a heap of ruins 1:7 All idols lay desolate 1:12, 2:3 Disaster come down on land 1:16, 4:6-10 To captivity (children, to Babylon) 2:10, 6:13, 6:18, 7:13 Destruction/Desolate 3:4 Lord will hide His face 3:12 Jerusalem a heap of ruins 6:15 Shall sow but not reap</td>
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<td>Compassion</td>
<td>5:6 He shall deliver us from Assyria 7:7 God will hear me 7:18-20 Compassion</td>
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<td>Call to repentance</td>
<td>6:8 He has shown you what is good do justly, love mercy, walk humbly</td>
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<td>Restore in future</td>
<td>4:6-8 I will gather the outcast 5:2-15 Ruler from Bethlehem will execute vengeance</td>
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<td>Kingdom for all</td>
<td>4:1-5 Lord’s house established and people shall flow to it, many nations will come</td>
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Micah’s Word Play

Micah makes a play on words in listing each of the cities that will fall to Sennacherib before he comes to the gates of Jerusalem in 701 BC

1:10 Tell it not in Gath or “Tell Town” 1:10 Roll yourself in the dust.

In Beth Aphrah or “house of dust”

1:11 Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir or “fair/beautiful”

1:11 The inhabitant does not go out in Zaanan or “to march out of town”

1:11 Beth Ezel mourns - place taken away or “neighbor town”

1:12 Maroth or “bitter town” pined for good

1:13 Lachish or “Horse town” Harness the chariot to the swift steeds

1:14 give presents to Moresheth Gath or “one who is betrothed”

1:14 Achzib or “deceitful” shall be a lie to the kings of Israel

1:15 I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah or “heir town”

1:15 glory of Israel shall come to Adullam or “wild beast cave – David hid in cave near by”

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Micah 2
1 Woe to those who devise iniquity,
   And work out evil on their beds!
2 At morning light they practice it,
   Because it is in the power of their hand.
3 They covet fields and take them by violence,
   Also houses, and seize them.
4 So they oppress a man and his house,
   A man and his inheritance.

6 “Do not preach”—thus they preach—
   “one should not preach of such things;
   disgrace will not overtake us.”
7 Should this be said, O house of Jacob?
   Has the Lord grown impatient?
   Are these his deeds?
   Do not my words do good
   to him who walks uprightly?

Micah 2:11 (ESV)
If a man should go about and
utter wind and lies, saying,
“I will preach to you of wine and
strong drink,”
he would be the preacher for this
people!

Micah 3:5 (ESV)
Thus says the Lord concerning the
prophets
who lead my people astray,
who cry “Peace” when they have
something to eat,
but declare war against him
who puts nothing into their mouths.

Micah 3:1-3 (ESV)
1 And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and
   rulers of the house of Israel!
   Is it not for you to know justice?—
2 you who hate the good
   and love the evil,
   who tear the skin from off my people
   and their flesh from off their bones,
3 who eat the flesh of my people,
   and flay their skin from off them,
   and break their bones in pieces
   and chop them up like meat in a pot,
   like flesh in a cauldron.

Micah 3:11 (ESV)
It is his heads give judgment for a bribe;
   its priests teach for a price;
   its prophets practice divination for
   money;
   yet they lean on the Lord and say,
   “Is not the Lord in the midst of us?
   No disaster shall come upon us.”

List Your Favorite Verse/s
Micah’s prophecy
735-700 BC
Prophet

Place the following prophecies under the correct prophecy range

1:6-7 Fall of Samaria in 722 BC
1:9-16 Invasion of Judah by
   Sennacherib (701 BC)
3:12,7:13 Fall of Jerusalem (586 BC)
4:10 Exile in Babylon (586 BC)
4:10 Return fr captivity (~516 BC)
5:2 Birth of Jesus (~4 BC)
4:1-5 Kingdom of God

Messianic Prophecy

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