

## **Key to MICAH**

### **1. STATISTICS:**

Writer, Micah (full name Micaiah) meaning "Who is like JEHOVAH?" a prophet from Moresh-Gath (30 miles S.W. of Jerusalem) who ministered to both Judah and Israel; time of prophecy, 751-693 B.C. in the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah and before the fall of Samaria (722 B.C.). He was contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea; key thought, controversy; key verse, 6:2.

### **2. THEME:**

Little is said of his personal history, the book is given over to reproof and warning to both Kingdoms. Micah has been called the "prophet of social reform" due to his emphasis on the sins of the rulers and false religious leaders against the people. National shortcomings are also emphasized with judgment promised. There is a better day coming for GOD's people.

### **3. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Though Assyria was world dominant, Micah's prophecy was concerning Babylon's conquest (4:10) which was not to take place for another century.

Micah's style is poetically beautiful and vigorous. He is quite clear in his predictions of coming punishment although there are passages that are somewhat obscure.

Much of the subject matter concerns the capitals, Jerusalem and Samaria. As to the latter, it was to become "**as an heap of the field**" (1:6); Jerusalem was to become "heaps" (3:12).

### **4. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

It was to Micah's prophecy the scribes of Jerusalem referred when the wicked King Herod sought to know concerning the birth of the new King (Matthew 2:2-6; Micah 5:2).

A glorious passage (somewhat identical with Isaiah 2:2-4) is found in 4:1-5 as the prophet speaks of a warless, prosperous, godly world with GOD's chosen people in the foreground.

Other prophetic subjects include the invasion by Shalmaneser (1:6-8); invasion by Sennacherib (1:9-16); the dispersion of Israel (5:7, 8); the cessation of prophecy (3:6, 7); the utter destruction of Jerusalem (3:12).

### **5. INTERESTING FEATURES:**

Jeremiah refers to Micah in his prophecy (Jeremiah 26:18, 19).

Some say the greatest verse in the Old Testament is 6:8.

One of the Old Testament's major Messianic predictions is in Micah 5:2.

## **6. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:**

GOD uses men to proclaim His message. Here, through the instrumentality of a chosen man, some amazing details of future history are given to all who will hear. As always, GOD warns before He sends punishment.

~ end of Micah ~

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