



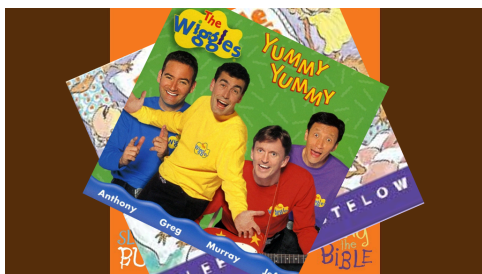
Micah 6:8 #1

Background and Context

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He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.



When I had my first child, Leah, a year ago, we began to listen to Slugs & Bugs Sing the Bible which has turned into many hours of listening to these kinds of songs. The song Micah 6:8 is particularly catchy: I even downloaded it on my phone and meditated on it while I work. I suggested this verse as a verse to think about this year. But I then realized I hadn't read the book of Micah in many years...

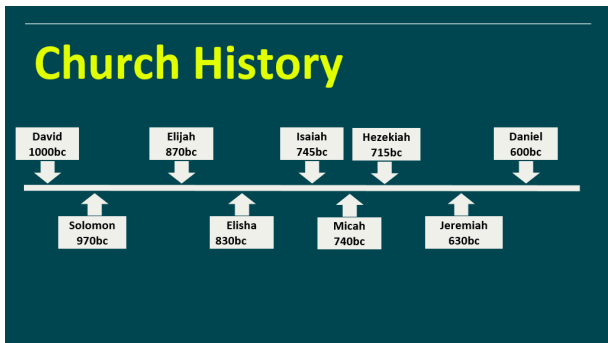
Here is some of my research about the book of Micah to give us context.

Here is where we're headed:

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Key Objectives


<p>Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location in church and world history • Physical location of Micah 	<p>Author and Audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is Micah? • Who is Micah writing to? 	<p>Book of Micah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Micah • Context of Chapter 6
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I made this timeline surrounding Micah, aprox. 740 BC . It's close to Hezekiah and Isaiah. On each end, David and Daniel stood out to me: Micah can see the ruins of David in the past (like us looking back to Geo Washington). Closer in history is Elijah and Elisha (I and

II Kings). Looking forward, Micah has prophecies that predict the destruction of Jerusalem.


World History



Infancy of Rome



Assyrians in Power

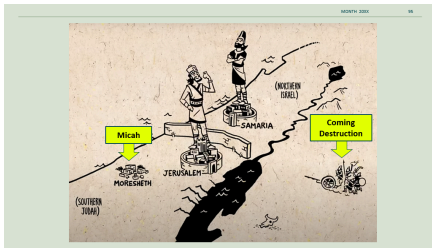


Babylonian Revolt

While Micah is alive, so was Romulus who was founding Rome in Italy. More important to the Israelites were the Assyrians who conquered Israel. Also, the Babylonian revolt was happening: they conquered Assyria which foreshadows a place where Babylonians could usurp power .



In this map, the light green area is the Assyrian power through Egypt. In yellow is Judah (very small) yet it was not able to be conquered which has a lot to do with Micah.

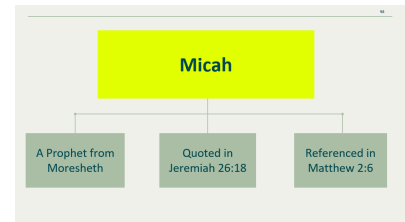


Israel has been divided: Northern (Samaria) and Southern (Jerusalem). Micah is a small town prophet who foreshadows destruction.

Who is Micah?

We don't know ٩(ツ)ノ

We don't get anything about him from his book...but Jeremiah gives us more insights:



Jer 26:17-19

17 Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people,

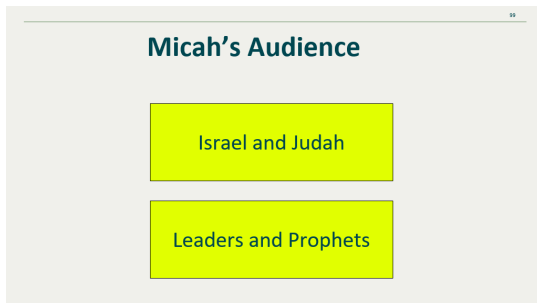
18 “Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says:“Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.’

19 “Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the LORD and seek his favor? And did not the LORD relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!”

They spare Jeremiah’s life because of this quote because; Hezekiah heeded Micah’s words. Hezekiah was a king who followed God but needed a push: Micah was that push who likely had Isaiah as a prophet at that time. This is likely what put Micah on the map: a prophet who said Micah was right!

Later Matthew quoted from Micah 5:2,4:

Matt 2:6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””



Micah lived in Judah and prophesied about them...he spoke against the unjust behavior of the leaders because they didn't follow God.

Destruction	01
Transgressions and Sins <small>(Gather the Remnant)</small>	02
False Prophets	03
Gather the Remnant	04
Deliverance	05
Indictment and Response	06
God's Example	07

This book summary from Mark’s sermon on Micah three years ago gives us an outline of the book. I added “Gather the Remnant.”

Indictment and Response needs more explanation for me:

Indictment and Response 06

Indictment:
 “a thing that serves to illustrate that a system or situation is bad and deserves to be condemned.”

Israel’s Response:
 “What was I supposed to do?”

This summarized Micah 6 which is a document that shows that the system is really bad and asks what Israel should do: “Sacrifice my first-born?” “Give 10,000 rivers of oil?” Of course, these choices are hyperbolic and are answered in Micah 6:8:

MICAH 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and
to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.

This verse is basically a summary of the entire Law: Micah reads the Law and says that what God wants is more simple, yet the people (and us) could not and cannot do it.

Summary of the Law

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength

1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel declared: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams.

There are other places like this in Scripture that attempt to summarize the Law: This is why the people were coming out of Egypt. This is a direct response to the rivers of oil: what if you were attentive to me and had a relationship with me?

There are other examples of this as well in Scripture.

Summary of the Law

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Jesus offers the Golden Rule in Matt 7:12. Later, Matthew repeats it in Matt 22 where Jesus quotes the Shema.

As we dig into Micah, we want to meditate on what this wisdom has for us and what it is inviting us into relating to new life.

MICAH 6:8

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When you put this verse into context, you can see how these people cannot do these things. We see this with Hezekiah: he is like no other king, yet he still required a prophet to tell him about the things he needed to repent from. God honored his repentance.

But we can't stop at Micah 6: Chapter 7 says:

Micah 7:18-20

17 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

20 You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.

Jesus brings new life now when we act justly...we see what is truly good as we experience this new life.

Summary:

Small town prophet has a huge impact on King Hezekiah even while surrounded by unjust rulers and kingdoms and gives us a particular way we can meditate over the next 4 weeks.