

Micah

Aug 13, 2023

Introduction:

Micah's name means "Who is like the Lord?" or "Who is "like God"

"Who is like unto You?" Micah emphasizes that theme as he goes along.

In the first 3 chapters: Who is like unto God in proclaiming—that is, in witnessing?

In chapters 4 and 5: Who is like unto God in prophesying, in consoling?

In chapter 6: Who is like unto God in pleading?

Finally, in chapter 7: Who is like unto God in pardoning?

Micah lived in Judah at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. He has been called a "miniature Isaiah" because of its similarities to that book. Both prophets spoke to the same audience from the same city during the same historical period.

Micah foresees the destruction of both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. But, beyond the judgment and suffering that is coming to God's people, he looks forward in hope - to a day of peace, to a new and everlasting kingdom of peace through the universal reign of God's Messiah.

Mic 4:2-5 Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. 4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

Themes:

The two main themes of Micah are God's judgment and redemption; judgment against idolatry and injustice, but also hope that God's people will return to Him and be restored.

The key verse:

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

Christ is seen as:

Jesus used Mic 7:6 to support how he came not to bring peace, but a sword (Mt 10:34-39)

Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

Mic 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." (Mt 2:1-6)

Messiah would be from everlasting (Rev:1-8)

Mic 5:2 ... His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.

Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek

Heb 7:3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

Heb 7:16 who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

The ruler in Israel (5:2)

Mic 2:12-13 "I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men. 13 "The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head."

Mic 4:6-8 "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted. 7 "I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever. 8 "As for you, tower of the flock, Hill of the daughter of Zion, To you it will come— Even the former dominion will come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem. (see Mic 4:1-8)

The rejected King of the Jews

Mic 5:1 "Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek."

Jn 19:3 and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face.

Mt 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him,

The establisher of God's House

Mic 4:1-2 And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. 2 Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Heb 3:6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

The Shepherd of God's flock

Mic 5:4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth.

Our peace

Mic 5:5 This One will be our peace. ... (Isa 9:6)

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (Col 1:20)

Nahum

Nahum means "comforter" and his message was a comfort to the Jews who feared and hated the cruel Assyrians' threats to their security.

Introduction:

Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, had the ministry of two prophets, Jonah and Nahum. Jonah was the prophet of mercy, calling the city to repentance. At that time Nineveh repented and was spared from the destruction prophesied by Jonah. In the 150 years following its repentance, the city lapsed back into idolatry worse than before. Thus, Nahum was sent to Nineveh to announce the vengeance of God in the soon - coming destruction of the city. Assyria, after being shown God's mercy, showed no mercy to Israel in the Assyrian captivity and thus God render to them judgment without mercy (Jas 2:13).

The Assyrians would be judged for their idolatry (Nahum 1:14), pride (Nahum 2:13) murder, lies, treachery, and social injustice (Nahum 3:1-19).

Christ is seen as:

The Prophet of comfort and vengeance, comforting His own (Jn 14:16).

Jn 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter), that He may be with you forever (Jn7:39; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7)

And "dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus " (2Th 1:8).

The Avenger of God's Elect

1Thes 4:6 ... the Lord is the avenger in all these things ... (Rev 6:10; 19:2)

Nah 1:2-3 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

How Nahum points to Jesus:

- 1) There will come Judgement (Nah 1:2-7)
- 2) There will come an end to the power of the oppressor (Nah 1:13)
- 3) There will come an end to suffering (Nah 1:12)
- 4) There will be some who hear, be repentant and receive grace...God will be a stronghold and refuge for some (Nah 1:7)
- 5) There will be the gospel promise of peace (Nah 1:15) through the person of Jesus
Nah 1:15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is cut off completely.