

19 – MICAH: INTRODUCTION

I. Historical Background



- Micah prophesied during the late eighth century B.C., which is pre-exilic.
- Micah was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah.
- He prophesied in the days of Jotham (750-731 B.C), Ahaz (735-715 B.C) and Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.), Kings of Judah.
- Micah began to prophesy before the destruction of Samaria and continued into the reign of Hezekiah.
- The Assyrian Empire was the dominant military power at the time.

II. The Prophet

A. His Name

- The name “Micah” is the shortened form of “Micaiah” meaning “Who is like Yahweh?”

B. His Home

- Micah was from Moresheth-gath, which was located 25 mile southwest of Jerusalem.
- The town is located on the border with Judah and Philistia.

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

C. His Occupation and Ministry

- We know nothing about the prophet's background and occupation.
- Micah was the prophet of the poor and downtrodden.

III. The Occasion, Purpose & Themes of the Book

- The book of Micah appears to be a loosely arranged collection of speeches.
- Micah can be divided into three messages (1:12-2:13; 3-5; 6-7).
- Micah's main audience was the people of the southern kingdom of Judah.
- The three messages show that Judah was as guilty as Israel was and they will be disciplined as well.
- The theme of judgment is prominent among the messages.
- Micah also stresses the promise of restoration.