

ABATT
Micah

Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

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The Minor Prophets		
Prophet	Date of Writing	Prophesied to:
Obadiah	845-750	Israel/Edom
Joel	835-796	Judah
Jonah	793-753	Niniveh
Hosea	753-715	Israel
Amos	760-755	Israel/Judah
Micah	770-710	Israel/Judah
Nahum	663-612	Niniveh
Zepheniah	635-625	Judah/Assyria/Nations
Habbakuk	610-605	Judah/Nations
Haggai	520	Judah
Zechariah	520-470	Judah
Malachi	460-410	Judah

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The Minor Prophets

“Despite the prosperity brought by Uzziah, Judah was morally bankrupt and impoverished. The rulers and the privileged were obsessed by greed. The rich enlarged their possessions by driving small land-owners from their property. The poor were robbed and stripped of what was rightfully theirs. The rich ate up those who borrowed from them. Judges could be bought with bribery. Merchants cheated their customers. Despite the religious reforms of Hezekiah, the hearts of the people were wholly engrossed in evil and wickedness. Priests and prophets spoke for hire. The people bought prophets who would tell them what they liked. As far as Micah was concerned, there was not a righteous man to be found in Judah, and the best to be found was no better than a thorn hedge.”

Jeff Smith

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The Minor Prophets

- The Book of Micah was likely written between 735 and 700 B.C. and the author was Micah. (1:1 The Lord gave this message to Micah of Moresheth **during the years when Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.** The visions he saw concerned both Samaria and Jerusalem.)
- Micah prophesied to both the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel and his message is an interesting mix of doom and hope.
- He prophesies of doom for their sin and hope in God's mercy.

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The Minor Prophets

- Probably the best known verse from Micah is in chapter 5, verse 2.
- Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ESV
- The above was written 700 years in advance of Christ's birth.

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The Minor Prophets

Do you remember the event that got Mary to Bethlehem?

Concurrent with the events leading up to Jesus' birth God was moving the Roman chess pieces into place – one of those moves was to elevate Caesar Augustus to emperor status thus giving him the power to call for a census.

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The Minor Prophets

Water to Wine	Feeding the Multitudes	Healing with Mud
John 9 – Blind Man Healed	Calming the Storm	The Catches of Fish
Lazarus Raised	Healing the Centurion's Son	The Pool of Bethesda

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The Minor Prophets

- Micah's name means, "who is like Jehovah?".

- Little is known about Micah, the man, but his name does suggest he has at least one godly parent.

- He sees two major sin problems in God's elect people – social injustice and rampant religious corruption.

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The Minor Prophets

- In the days of Micah's prophecies Israel had begun to mix the worship of Baal in with their Levitical sacrifices.

- This practice, mixing the worship of Baal and Jehovah together is called, "syncretism" – thus the worshippers are torn between two gods.

- If you think you have two gods you are always wrong; if you have two, you have none.

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The Minor Prophets

- He lived just 17 miles from Tekoah where another country preacher, Amos, was from.
- Today many would call him an unsophisticated country bumpkin, but he was well aware of what was going on among the more educated and cosmopolitan residents of Samaria and Jerusalem.
- Never forget that God is more than able to use the uneducated and unsophisticated. 😊

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The Minor Prophets

- Micah 1:2 Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, **and let the Lord God be a witness against you**, the Lord from his holy temple. 3 For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. 4 And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. 5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. **What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?** ESV

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The Minor Prophets

- Once the Lord has indicted you, what will you have for an answer?
- Rom 3:19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and **to show that the entire world is guilty before God.**
- Naming their chief cities as their transgressions is a way of saying apostasy, which led to cultural rot, was their problem.

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The Minor Prophets

- God makes it quite clear why he is going to judge his people – there is evidently widespread and deep seeded rebellion and idolatry.
- 1st Sam 15:23 “Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols.”
- Rebellion is cooperating with the devil, and idolatry is a rejection of God – these two sins often go hand-in-hand and are certain to bring God’s anger.

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The Minor Prophets

- Think about the situations in Samaria and Jerusalem from God’s point of view.
- He called Israel, he blessed Israel, and he was faithful to protect and bless them when they obeyed – and in Micah’s day there was plenty of evidence of this to prove it.
- Yet, Israel was consistent in just one thing – their inconsistent obedience to God. (the definition of a worldly Christian?)

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The Minor Prophets

What is the kindest or the harshest thing we could say to an inconsistent Christian to motivate them?

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