

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

## *Micah*

### **Jesus Christ, Witness Against Rebellious Nations**

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## **Luther on the Prophets**

*“the prophets have a queer way of talking, like people who instead of proceeding in an orderly manner, ramble off from one thing to the next so that you cannot make head or tail of them or see what they are getting at.”* (Martin Luther)

No prophet illustrates this better than Micah. It is easy to get lost in the mix of his judgment and salvation speeches.

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## **Meaning of the Name**

The name *Micah* (a common name in the OT) is a shortened version of the name *Micaiah* (Heb. *Mi-ka-Yahu*), which means “Who is like Yahweh?”

*“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.”* (7:18)

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## **F – L – I – G – H – T**

**F** – The author of the book of Micah was the prophet and poet of Moresheth. Moresheth was a small village about 20 miles SW of Jerusalem in the southern kingdom of Judah. Little is known about Micah other than the meaning of his name, his hometown, and the fact that he prophesied during the reigns of 3 kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Micah wrote his poetic prophecies between 730 and 720 BC.

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – Micah represented God to the southern kingdom of Judah. Micah spoke to the common people of Judah, the farmers and villagers. Micah’s theme was “God is moving” – yes, his judgment was approaching, but afterward, the future would be glorious.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- I** –
  - The Exposé (1-3)
  - The Expectation (4-5)
  - The Exaltation (6-7)

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Micah delivered one of the most well-known messianic prophecies in redemptive history a full 700 years before the events of the Gospel took place, a prediction of the little town of **Bethlehem** becoming the birthplace of the Messiah (5:2). Micah not only prophesied about Jesus’ first coming; he also prophesied about his return. The deliverer born in Bethlehem would have the heart of a shepherd, nourishing his people—that’s Jesus’ 1<sup>st</sup> coming—and bringing peace to the earth—that’s his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Jesus himself said, “*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.*” (John 10:11) And he did just that on the cross, giving his life for us so that we might have peace with God and receive the forgiveness of our sins. In the prophetic words of Micah, he “*cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*” (7:19) Jesus laid down his life and rose again, and now we wait for him to return and reign in everlasting peace.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – Micah prophesied during the reigns of Jotham (750-732 BC), Ahaz (735-715 BC), and Hezekiah (715-686 BC). This era was one of **Assyrian dominance**. The Assyrians conquered Samaria, the capital city of Israel, and destroyed parts of the southern kingdom of Judah. Micah preached around the same time as Isaiah, Hosea, Jonah, and Amos.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **The book of Micah reveals that God wants you to “do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (6:8)** Micah reminds us to put into practice what we know divinely to be true. **God has an immediate and an ultimate plan for his people.** It’s easy to focus on the trials and tragedies of this life and lose sight of what’s coming. Micah reminds us that God uses hardships to mature us and times of rejoicing to remind us of his goodness, whetting our appetites for Christ’s triumphant return.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Corruption works outward from the core of a nation – or an individual.** Selfishness, lust, greed, and laziness are default settings. When you read God’s word daily, pray constantly, attend church regularly, and live life with other believers, you fill yourself with the things of God so that in times of trial or temptation, the fruit of the Spirit pours out of your life.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **God has a big eraser; let him use it.** *“You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.” (7:19)* Confess your every sin to the Lord—everything that weighs you down in running this race—and let him refresh your soul.

### Message to the People Concerning Israel's Sin

*"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." (1:2)*

idolatry, covetousness, oppression, violence, encouraging false prophets, corruption of princes, corruption of prophets, corruption of priests, bribery, dishonesty

### Message to the Rulers Concerning the Coming Christ

*"Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel!" (3:1) "Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray..." (3:5)*

*"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." (5:2)*

### Message to the Chosen People Concerning God's Argument

*"Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel." (6:2)*

God is pictured as one bringing a lawsuit against his people.

### Corrie ten Boom on the Removal of Sin

*"He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins **into the depths of the sea.**" (7:19)*

*"When we confess our sins...God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever...I believe God then places a sign out there that says, **NO FISHING ALLOWED.**" (Corrie ten Boom)*