

MICAH - A STUDY GUIDE

THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
 - b. Why did He record it for our study?
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1. Does the book of Micah add anything significant to your picture of God? Would the message about God be just as clear without this small book? Amos, Isaiah and Hosea were contemporaries of Micah. Do you see any similarities in their writings?
2. What kind of society lies awake at night planning evil? Micah 2:1,2. Look at God's response. (Micah 2:3-5)
3. What do you think of the description of preaching in Micah 2:11? Can you imagine anyone preferring this type of preaching? How many congregations today are getting that kind of message?
4. How could it be that false prophets, dishonest judges, and mercenary priests had become the norm for the land? (Micah 3:5-11)
5. Compare Micah 4:2,3 with Isaiah 2:2-4. Who do you think borrowed from whom? Does this example of "plagiarism" destroy your confidence in either of these prophets? Why does the message of these two passages seem to conflict with Joel 3:10?
6. What is implied by Micah 4:11,12? What experiences do you think are being referred to? What did the heathen nations looking on think when it was necessary for God to discipline His people?
7. Did the Jews regard Micah 4:13-5:1 as their key text?
8. What do you understand is the context of the famous Messianic prophecy in Micah 5:2? Why would God give such a message of promise or warning to people who were acting as the people were acting at this time?
9. Is it clear what God really wants of us as described in Micah 6 & 7? What does God want us to bring when we come to Him? According to Micah, is the solution to the whole ceremonial system to be sure that you bring the "correct blood" so as to satisfy the legal requirements of the law? Or does Micah suggest that we should do what is implied by believing in the real meaning of the death (the blood) of the Son or Messiah? How do you fit these verses with Exodus 6:6-9; Leviticus 5:11; 1 Samuel 15:22,23; Psalms 51:16-19; Isaiah 1:10-20; 29:13; Jeremiah 3:14-16; 7:21-26; 29:10-14; 31:31-34; Hosea 6:4-6; Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 9:13; 12:7; Romans 2:17-29; and Hebrews 9:22-10:4? Has God made it clear in Scripture what He really wants from us?
10. It is absolutely essential to understand the meaning here because we know historically that the ceremonial system can be turned into a terrible curse, just as the Sabbath can be turned into a curse. On the other hand the ceremonial system and the Sabbath, properly understood, can

be a tremendous blessing. What would make the difference between the Sabbath or the law being a blessing or a curse even in our day?

11. If David, Hosea, Jeremiah, or Micah, after living their lives and writing what they did, could have lived until the time of Christ, would they have understood and gotten the message of the cross?
12. Does your religion ever seem like the experience of Micah 6:3?
13. Does God pour out anger and retribution on nations who disobey Him? How do you explain this kind of language in scripture? (Micah 2:7; Isaiah 9:19; 10:6; 13:13; Jeremiah 10:10; 32:37; Ezekiel 7:19; Romans 1:18,24,26,28; 4:25; include Revelation 14:10,11) How do you fit these with Romans 2:4; John 15:15; 1 John 4:18 etc.? If you substitute righteousness for "justice" in these passages (as you should) it doesn't make any sense! Does God have to punish the wicked in order not to be considered weak?
14. After reading this book is it clearer what God wants of us? Does Micah 6 & 7 help? What do you think of a God who chooses as His highest aim to walk humbly with His children?

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