

MICAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To warn the people of God that judgment is coming and to offer pardon to all who repent.

Author

Micah of Moresheth.

Date

Possibly written c.742-687 BC during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Audience

The people of both Israel and Judah.

Setting

The setting of Micah is judgment and forgiveness. The Lord, the Judge who scatters His people because of their transgressions and sins, is also the Shepherd-King who in covenant faithfulness gathers, protects, and forgives them.

Special Features

Micah is a beautiful example of classical Hebrew poetry. It is composed of three parts, each beginning with "Hear" or "Listen" and concluding with a promise.



Key Verses

"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it." (4:1 NIV)

"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." (5:2 ESV)

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (6:8 NIV84)

Key People

The people of Samaria and Jerusalem.

Key Places

Samaria, Jerusalem, Bethlehem.