

A Prediction of the Fall of Samaria Micah 1

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The fall of Samaria was predicted.
2. The fall of Jerusalem was predicted.

Practical Application

1. Are you willing to be embarrassed for the Lord?

Questions

1. Which prophet in the Old Testament predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?
2. Micah had a long period of ministry. About how long?
3. What does it mean when we say that Micah was a pre-exilic prophet?
4. Micah predicts the fall of which two cities?
5. Who is called upon to be a witness of the Lord's just judgment? See Micah 1:2.
6. See Micah 1:3. What were the high places and what was their purpose?
7. See Micah 1:5. What is meant by the transgression of Jacob?

Answers

1. Micah. See Micah 5:2.
2. At least fifty years.
3. His ministry was before the Jews went into exile as captives in Babylon.
4. Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
5. All nations are called upon to be a witness of the Lord's just judgment.
6. They were places with altars and shrines used for idolatrous worship.
7. Samaria's sins included worshiping at the high places of idolatry and prostitution.

Discuss / Consider

1. Because of idolatry, immorality, and injustice, both Israel and Judah came under God's judgment. What about today? What "high places" does our nation pursue? What about in your own life? God's judgment still falls on all who seek other gods.

2. Not long after Samaria fell, the Assyrians attacked Judah, yet the city was spared through King Hezekiah's prayers. Sadly, Judah continued its moral and spiritual decline, and in 586 B.C. the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem—just as Micah had foretold. What does Judah's story teach us about the power of prayer and the danger of ignoring God's warnings?

Challenge

1. In Micah 1:8, the prophet used role play to dramatically portray the coming invasion—a humiliating task for him. Would you be willing to be embarrassed for the Lord? What if He asked you to share your testimony in public, or simply thank Him for your food in a restaurant?

One Reason for God's Judgment of Judah: Social Injustice

Micah 2

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God will judge the sins of social injustice.

2. God will restore the remnant of Israel.

Practical Application

1. Let's all do what we can to strengthen the family unit.

Questions

1. Which other prophet was a contemporary of Micah?
2. Quote the well-known prophecy of the future as prophesied by both prophets.
3. Both prophets ministered in the same kingdom. Which kingdom was it?
4. Within this kingdom, where was each ministry concentrated?
5. Why is Micah sometimes referred to as the Amos of the south?
6. Refer to Micah 2:12-13. How is the Messiah seen here in a three-fold fullness for Israel?

Answers

1. The prophet Isaiah.
2. "They shall beat their swords into plowshare and their spears into pruning hooks." Micah 4:3 and Isaiah 2:4.
3. The Southern Kingdom of Judah.
4. Isaiah's ministry was concentrated or centered more in the capital of Jerusalem. Micah's ministry was concentrated more in the country.
5. Because he spoke out against the social injustice, the social sins in the Southern Kingdom of Judah as Amos had preached out against the social injustice and the social sins of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
6. The Messiah is seen here in a three-fold fullness for Israel: as their Shepherd who will lead them and remove the obstacles before them as their King as their Lord God

Discuss / Consider

1. In Micah 2:1-2, God condemned His people for their social injustice. They were so materialistic they lay awake at night plotting how to seize more for themselves, even by oppressing the poor. Do you ever catch yourself dwelling on ways to take advantage of someone or get back at them? God calls that sin, and He will judge it.

2. Even though Israel had turned away from the Lord and committed gross sin, yet God in His grace will restore a godly remnant in the future. What a great day that will be! Do you rejoice for Israel in the knowledge that they will return to the land and to the Lord?

Challenge

1. Micah 2:9 shows how broken homes robbed God of glory. The same is true today. Our families are meant to reflect His love, fellowship, respect, and honor. Since the family is the foundation of the nation, how can you strengthen your own family to better reflect God's design?

A Denunciation of Evil Rulers and False Prophets

Micah 3

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Lord will not answer those who practice evil.**
- 2. The Lord will not guide those who proclaim falsehood.**
- 3. The Lord will not protect those who promote injustice.**

Practical Application

- 1. Don't have a limited view of what it means to be filled with the Spirit.**

Questions

1. A simple outline of the prophecy of Micah would be three messages of judgment and deliverance. In which chapters are these three messages found?
2. See Micah 1:2; 3:1; 6:1. How does each exhortation begin?
3. How were the leaders and rulers of Judah treating the people?
4. Why didn't the Lord answer the cry of the leaders and rulers of Judah?
5. See Micah 3:11. What are the three types of persons noted for distorting justice?

Answers

1. Message #1 – Chapters 1-2 Message #2 – Chapters 3-5 Message #3 – Chapters 6-7
2. Each exhortation begins with the words, “Hear (the word of the Lord)...”
3. They were treating them like animals. See Micah 3:2-3.
4. Because of their treatment of the people.
5. Judges, priests and prophets.

Discuss / Consider

1. The Lord did not hear the cry of the leaders and rulers of Judah because of the way they treated the people. He hid His face, as it were, when He allowed the Babylonians to come in and conquer Judah. Is it possible that the Lord is not hearing your prayers right now? How are you treating others in your family, at work, within the fellowship?

2. False prophets were denounced because they did not preach the truth. Rather, they preached what people wanted to hear and were willing to pay for. Is the same true today? Think of the lies proclaimed from some of the pulpits today. The Lord will denounce those who proclaim falsehood.

Challenge

1. The leaders in Micah’s day twisted justice and redefined what was right, while judges took bribes. Sound familiar? Our own nation has distorted moral standards and allowed corruption to creep in. Micah reminds us that God does not overlook social injustice, He condemns it. The challenge is this: will you stand silently by, or will you live with integrity and courage, refusing to compromise even when society does?

The Good News of Israel's Future

Micah 4

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Lord will restore and renew the peace of Israel.**
- 2. The Lord will rescue and redeem the people of Israel.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let prophecy change your character.**

Questions

1. Refer to the phrase "latter days" in Micah 4:1. When are the latter days?
2. In the same verse, is the Lord's house the church today?
3. When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom here on earth where will He have His headquarters?
4. When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom on this earth, what will that kingdom be known as?
5. Micah predicts four events which would have to take place before the realization of the restored godly remnant and the glorious kingdom of the last days. List these four events.

Answers

1. This refers to the time of the Lord's second coming.
2. No. It is the temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem in the future when the Lord returns.
3. In Jerusalem, which will become the capital of the world.
4. The Millennial Kingdom of Christ, because it will last 1,000 years. See Revelation 20:1.
5. a. The Jews would go as captives to Babylon.
b. The Jews would return from their captivity in Babylon.
c. Many nations will be gathered against Israel.
d. Israel will be victorious.

Discuss / Consider

1. Micah 4:3 promises a day when swords will be turned into plowshares and nations will no longer train for war. The U.N. displays this verse as a vision for peace, but Scripture teaches it will only be fulfilled when Christ returns as the Prince of Peace. What does this reveal about where our hope for lasting peace should be placed, and how should that shape the way we live now in a world still full of conflict?

2. In Micah 4:6–8, God promises to rescue a faithful remnant of Israel and make them into a strong nation once again, after the times of the Gentiles have run their course (Luke 21:24). How does this promise of God's faithfulness to Israel encourage us to trust His promises for our own lives today?

Challenge

1. What is your response to the study of prophecy? The study of prophecy reveals God's plans for the future, but its real power is in how it changes us today. How can you use your time, talents, and treasures this week to serve God more faithfully, knowing that earthly possessions and concerns will ultimately fade?

A Prediction of the Birthplace of the Messiah

Micah 5

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem at His first coming.**
- 2. The Messiah will deliver Israel at His second coming.**

Practical Application

- 1. Have you received the bread from Bethlehem?**

Questions

1. Read the quote in Matthew 2:6. Where is this found in the Old Testament?
2. By whom was this prophecy quoted in Matthew 2:6, and for what reason?
3. What is the meaning of the phrase, "They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek?" (Micah 5:1)
4. Who was the judge of Israel in this passage? How was he stricken with a rod on the cheek?
5. When the Lord returns, He will deliver Israel in four different ways. List these ways.
6. What is the meaning of the name of Bethlehem?

Answers

1. Micah 5:2.
2. It was quoted by the chief priests and scribes to Herod in reference to the request of the wise men as to where the king of the Jews was born. Herod relayed this message to the wise men and they went and found the Lord in Bethlehem.
3. It is a sign of greatest humiliation.
4. King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. The Babylonians killed King Zedekiah's sons before his very eyes, and then they blinded him and took him as a prisoner to Babylon. Read about this in 2 Kings 25.
5. The Lord will deliver Israel from the coming Assyrian
6. Bethlehem means house of bread.

Discuss / Consider

1. Bethlehem was a small, unremarkable town, yet from it came the Messiah. God delights in using the obscure—people or places—for His glory. Do you feel small or insignificant? If you yield yourself to Him, He can accomplish great things through you.

2. “...*He shall give them up until...*” (Micah 5:3; see also Romans 11). Israel has been temporarily set aside while the Gentiles share in God's favor. How should this reality shape the way we view God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles today—and what does it challenge us to do in our own faith and witness?

Challenge

1. Matthew 2:6 quotes Micah 5:2, showing that the chief priests and scribes knew God's Word but did nothing with it. The wise men, however, believed and acted on it—and they found the Lord. Will you go beyond simply knowing God's Word? Will you believe it, act on it, and live by it this week so that you can experience His presence in a deeper, more personal way?

Micah's Third Message of Judgment and Deliverance

Micah 6

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Lord's requirements are consistent with His character.**
- 2. The Lord's judgments are consistent with His character.**

Practical Application

- 1. It's never wrong to wonder why you are sick.**

Questions

1. List the chapters in Micah that are associated with his messages:
Message #1 – Chapters ____
Message #2 – Chapters ____
Message #3 – Chapters ____
2. Each message consists of two parts. Name these two parts.
3. In the judgment part of Chapter 6, there are two indictments or lawsuits of the Lord against Israel because of sin. In Micah 6:1-2, who does the Lord call on to be a jury and listen to both sides of the dispute?
4. What was Israel's response to the Lord's first indictment?
5. What is the Lord not looking for as people come to worship?
6. What is the Lord looking for as stated in Micah 6:8?

Answers

1. - Message #1 – Chapters 1-2
- Message #2 – Chapters 3-5
- Message #3 – Chapters 6-7
2. A judgment part and a deliverance part.
3. The mountains.
4. The people were penitent, a good response.
5. The Lord is not looking for thousands of animal sacrifices, nor does he want human sacrifices.
6. “What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Discuss / Consider

1. The response of the godly remnant in the future when Israel returns to the Lord will be one of penitence. Read Micah 6:8. This is what the Lord is looking for in His people, both then and today. Use this as a check list concerning your character. Does your character reflect God’s character?

2. Micah 6:9–16 records God’s second indictment against Israel for dishonesty and injustice. He must judge sin, then and now. In what ways might we be dishonest or unfair to others today, and how can we take steps to confess, make things right, and honor God’s standard of integrity?

Challenge

1. Spend time this week reflecting on your life. Are there areas where your practice doesn’t align with your profession of faith, and what steps can you take to correct them?

The Confession of the Godly Remnant of Israel

Micah 7

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The godly remnant of Israel will acknowledge the sins of the nation.**
- 2. The godly remnant of Israel will experience the blessings of God.**

Practical Application

- 1. Have you experienced God's more than a pardoned love?**

Questions

1. Why is Micah called a minor prophet?
2. What does Micah's name mean?
3. God brought two indictments against Israel. The response of the people to the first indictment was one of penitence. What was their response to the second indictment?
4. For whom was Micah speaking as representative in Micah 7:1-10?
5. What is the time known as Jacob's trouble?

Answers

1. Because his book is small compared to the major prophets, but that does not mean that his message is of lesser importance.
2. Micah's name means, "who is like the Lord."
3. One of penitence.
4. Micah voiced the confession of the godly remnant of Israel. He was speaking as representative of the godly Jews in Judah who were sorry for their sins and who had repented of their wrong doing.
5. The coming tribulation period.

Discuss / Consider

1. Micah spoke for the godly remnant in Judah—those who repented and trusted God rather than taking revenge. This remnant foreshadows the faithful who will exist in Israel before Christ's return. How can we apply this example in our own lives by confessing our sins and trusting God to handle justice instead of seeking revenge ourselves?

2. The godly remnant of Micah's day were few and far between. Things were so bad that the people were treating each other like animals, leaders and judges could be bought off by bribes, and family relationships had broken down. Is there a parallel in our nation today? What is your part in this kind of behavior?

Challenge

1. Micah 7:18–20 celebrates God's unmatched mercy. He pardons our sins, removes them completely, and casts them into the depths of the sea (Psalm 103:12; Jeremiah 31:34). These verses, central to Yom Kippur and the future confession of the godly remnant, remind us of Christ's forgiveness today. Reflect this week on God's mercy in your life. Are there areas where you need to fully accept His forgiveness and extend it to yourself and others?