**Micah**

*Hope in Heeding God’s Judgment*

*Micah 1*

Background

* Written – Between 750 BC and 700 BC
* Prophesied during the reigns of Jotham (reigned 16 years), Ahaz (16 years) and Hezekiah (29 ytears)
  + Preached at least 16 years without succeeding, though it was likely 20-25 years before Hezekiah led Judah back to the Lord
  + NOTE: Hezekiah was reigning when the northern kingdom (Israel) was taken away by Assyria
    - 10 And at the end of three years they took it: *even* in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that *is* the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. 11 And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: (2 Kings 18:10-11)
  + NOTE: It appears Hezekiah had a closer relationship with Isaiah
    - 1 ¶ And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard *it*, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. 2 And he sent Eliakim, which *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz. 3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day *is* a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and *there is* not strength to bring forth. (2 Kings 19:1-3)
* Micah
  + From Moresh-Gath (near the border of Philistia and Judah about twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem), a Morasthite
    - More agricultural area versus the city
    - Away from the elite and powerful leaders in Samaria and Jerusalem
  + Contemporary of Isaiah, Amos and Hosea
* Key Verses
  + But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)
  + He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8)
  + 18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. 19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19)
* Focus on the lowly, afflicted and rejected
  + In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; (Micah 4:6)

Listen (v 2)

Fear (v 3-4)

Understand (v 5-7)

Respond

* Weep (v 8)
* Accept (v 9)
* Let Go (v 10-15)
* Be Humbled (v 16)