

Study 1: Micah 1 – 2

1. Read Micah 1:1. Remember that by this time God's people had divided into two nations: Judah in the south whose capital was Jerusalem, and Israel in the north whose capital was Samaria. To get a feel for Micah's times, read and consider the following:

Jotham	2 Kings 15:32 – 35
Ahaz	2 Kings 16:1 – 4 and 7 – 9
Samaria	2 Kings 17:1 – 2 and 5 – 8 and 16 – 19
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:1 – 4

- a. What huge event happened in the middle of Micah's ministry?
- b. Why did it happen?
- c. How is Judah described over the period of Micah's prophesy?

2. How would you describe God as pictured in Micah 1:2 – 5? How would you feel if you were to stand before this God?

3. What does Micah 1:6 – 7 reveal about God (cf. question 1)?

4. Micah 1:8 – 16 addresses Judah and Jerusalem. How does their behaviour compare to their northern cousins? What's different about the judgments predicted (1:6 cf. 1:16)?

5. From Micah 2, list the things that brought God's judgment in Micah's era. To what extent do we see these sins today (3,700 years later)?

6. Micah is writing to God's people, and so we should apply it more to our church than to our nation. Which of the sins mentioned are we at JAC most vulnerable to? Which of the sins mentioned are you most vulnerable to?

7. Micah 2:12 – 13 holds out some hope for the future of God's people. But how can we reconcile the gathering God described here with the judging God described in chapter 1?

Study 2: Micah 3 – 4:5

Note: The last three studies do not follow exactly the passages to be spoken on in church.

1. List the various sins mentioned in Micah 3. Can you think of current examples of these?

2. Micah 3:1 – 3 uses strong imagery. What's it referring to? What effect does it have on you to read these verses?

3. Will God always listen to a person's prayer? How does verse 4 fit in with what we think about God?

4. Because the prophets did not listen to God, God stopped speaking (Micah 3:5 – 7). Do you think this was this fair of God? From the end of the Old Testament there was a silence of some 400 years. How did God break the drought?

5. Despite their sin, there was complacency (Micah 3:11 – 12). Why do you think they were so confident in God's protection? Are there beliefs we have that could lead us to be overconfident, and what might result when we are? (Read Jeremiah 26:17 – 19 to find out the response of Micah's hearers)

6. What contrast is there between the last verse on Micah 3 and the first verse of Micah 4? Note: Zion is the name of the hill the temple was built on.

7. What are the key elements of Micah's vision of the future in verses 1 – 4?
 - a. When has or when will God's word go out and people from every nation come to God? What part do you have in this?
 - b. When has or when will people and nations live in harmony and peace with one another? What part do you have in this?

Study 3: Micah 4:5 – 5:15

1. To what extent can you control your future? Give it a rating where 0 = not at all, 10 = completely. What things do we do to secure the future we want?

2. Micah, like many of the prophets, does not speak of what is to come in chronological order. In today's passage Micah refers to several events. With the help of the following notes, read through Micah 4:5 – 5:15, divide it into sections and write down, as best you can, what each section is referring to.
Notes: Assyria defeated Israel in 722bc, and then besieged Jerusalem, but did not capture it, and withdrew. Babylon defeated Judah and Jerusalem in 597bc and many were taken into exile. About 60 years later they returned from exile.

2. In Micah 4:6 – 10 what words could you use to describe God? Is this your experience of God?

3. The threats of the Assyrians against Jerusalem are recorded in 2 Kings 18:26 – 29, 32b – 35. How would you feel if you were sitting on the wall hearing all this? Read Micah 4:11 – 5:1 and 5:5 – 6 to hear God's reply. What effect would these words have on your confidence level?

4. We have seen that God is a God who rescues his people. But Micah tells us that God will work through a King who is to come. What do we learn about this king in Micah 4:8 and 5:2 – 5a? Who is being spoken of? The phrase "whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" for Micah could just mean he had a long lineage. With "NT glasses" on, what might this refer to?

5. Micah 5:7 – 9 can be seen as a description of God's people as both a blessing (v7) and a curse (v8-9) to those around them. How might that be the case? After considering this, also look ahead to 2 Cor 2:15 – 16a.

6. Micah 5:10 – 15 is a description of how God will purify his people from the inside. The reference to horses and cities is because they were trusting in the military might of those things, and not in God. From the rest of the Bible, how does God purify people? What can you do to work with God to see that happen in your life? What role does the King play in this?

Study 4: Micah 6 – 7

1. Again God, through Micah, speaks a word of judgment mixed with hope. Read Micah 6:1 – 2 and 6:9 – 7:6. What behaviours bring God's judgment? Which of these areas are you most tempted in?

2. From Micah 6:3 – 5 what makes the sin of the people even worse? What lies at the heart of sin?

3. From Micah 6:6 – 8 what two ways of approaching God are contrasted? What's God's opinion of each of them? What will living the way the Lord requires look like in your life? How is living like this the opposite of what we saw is at the heart of sin in question 2?

4. Micah is surrounded by a sinful nation. What is his response (Micah 7:7)? What does this show about Micah's character?

5. In Micah 7:8 – 20 what lies beyond judgment for God's ancient people? What aspect of God is on view here? As you reflect on verses 18 – 19, what would you like to say to God in response? What extra understanding do we, living after Jesus, have that Micah didn't?

6. What ultimately lies at the heart of God's forgiveness (Micah 7:20)? How can that fact help when we feel unworthy of God's mercy?

7. The last verse of the Book of Micah contains its only reference to Abraham. God's promise to Abraham was to give him many descendants, and to give them a good place to live, and to bless them and be their God. Looking back over all of Micah's prophesy, how do you see these themes worked out:
 - a. In the immediate history of Israel and Judah
 - b. In what Micah said God would do after these events