

Pastor's Class
May 19, 2010
People of Faith: Micah
Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Review

Ruth's Loyalty: Sticks with Your Team
Ruth's Reputation: Loving Deeds are never Forgotten
Ruth's Preparations: She Follows No Matter What
Ruth's Legacy: You Never Know What God is Up To

Micah

Name means, "Who is like the Lord."
Other 8th Century Prophet: Isaiah, Hosea and Amos
Micah was from the working class
 Moresheth-gath, 25 miles SW of Jerusalem
Addressed both Kingdoms
 Northern: Israel
 Southern: Judah

Structure of the Book

Oracles of judgment/1:2-2:211
Oracles of hope/2:12-13
Oracles of judgment/3:1-12
Oracles of hope/4:1-5:15
Oracles of judgment/6:1-7:7
Oracles of hope/7:8-20
Judgment: Politicians, Priests and Traders
Hope: People who were faithful and powerless
Law/Gospel

Micah 1

¹²I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob, I will gather the survivors of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture; it will resound with people. ¹³The one who breaks out will go up before them; they will break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king will pass on before them, the LORD at their head.

Good Shepherd Image

Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd

John 10 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the
Sheep

61 Verses in Scripture that pick up this image

Micah 3

And I said: Listen, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Should you not know justice? — ²you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin off my people, and the flesh off their bones; ³who eat the flesh of my people, flay their skin off them, break their bones in pieces, and chop them up like meat in a kettle, like flesh in a caldron.

⁴Then they will cry to the LORD, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have acted wickedly.

⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. ⁶Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. ⁸But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

⁹Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, ¹⁰who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong! ¹¹Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us." ¹²Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

Abuse of Power Rejected

3:1-3 Political Leaders who cannibalize the people

Use their people for gain as they suffer

Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely

3:5 False Prophets

Declare peace to those who support them

Declare contempt to those who do not support them

3:9 Unfaithful Clergy

Reject Justice and Fairness

Building Up on the backs of the Poor

3:11 Summary

Leaders sin and believe they are in God's will

Micah 5

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Bethlehem

Christmas Text

Ruth's Family

David: Unite Israel

Jesus: Savior

Micah 6

³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Way of the Faithful

Recognize the Faithfulness of God

Delivering the People from Egypt

Sending them a Leader in Moses, Aaron and Miriam

Saving from foes and granting them land

Rejection of the Sacrificial System

No Burnt Offerings/Blood of Animals/Oil/Children

But do three things

Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly With God

Next Time:

26 May 2010—People of Faith: Deborah