

- C. Explore the meaning of prophetic poetry! (10-15)
- i. Micah is playing on the meaning of each town's name.
 - ii. These 9 cities were military cities designed to protect the path to Jerusalem.
 - iii. The first and last one highlight what is going on.
 - a) "Tell it not in Gath" was a familiar line to the Israelites.
 - 2 Samuel 1:17-20
 - b) This is about *justice; God's justice*.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Micah 1 is a picture of YHWH coming as King. Might you ever have thought of a scene like this as an answer to the prayer, "Your Kingdom come?" Do you think those whose lands were taken (see 2:2) might have been praying for God's kingdom to come?
- How do the judgments announced in Micah 1 reveal God's righteousness in dealing with His people Israel?
- Can you think of how deliverance comes through judgment in Micah? Can you think of other places that this pattern occurs?
- After reading Jonah, what might surprise you about the nature of YHWH in Micah? Why is it important for us to study Micah?
- Why do you think God would want the nations of the world to watch how He deals with His people Israel when they are in persistent sin?
- Where is the first and essential place that believers must apply a prophetic message of God's dealing with sin?

Who is Like God? Part 2

Jerry Cisar — June 18, 2017

Text: Micah 1

Introduction

I. The King is Coming (1:2-4)

- A. *The Lord is coming.*
 - i. There is a sense of immediacy in Micah's voice.
 - ii. He is coming to *the high places of the earth.*
 - a) The high places were places they worshiped false gods.
 - b) Psalm 121:1-2
- B. When God comes in judgment the playing field is leveled.
 - i. YHWH brings true justice.
 - ii. Why are the people of *the whole earth* called to the courtroom and told to pay attention?

II. Why is the King Coming? (1:5-7)

- A. What prompts this coming of the Lord? (5)
 - i. The sin of of Israel
 - a) Samaria
 - b) Jerusalem

ii. *Transgression* and *high place* are used interchangeably.

B. What will His judgment be? (6-7)

i. Assyria will destroy Samaria, but will do so by the hand of God.

a) This came to pass during Micah's lifetime in 722 BC.

b) YHWH used the battering rams of the Assyrian army under Shalmaneser V (2 Kings 17:3-6) to carry out his sentence against Samaria.

ii. This is not the same people group as the Samaria of Jesus' time, only the same geographic space.

iii. Their idolatry will be obliterated.

a) Love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated.

➤ Matthew 22:36-39

b) Since idolatry always leads to injustice, when dealing with the injustices God's people perpetrate against one another, YHWH deals with the root source – *idolatry!*

➤ Colossians 3:5

iv. Why are *wages* being burned?

Waltke: *The money to hire [Samaria's] cult prostitutes had come from the conquest of neighbors and from the exploitation of the common man (cf Mic 2:1-2).*

a) YHWH would send Assyria to carry it all back, melt it down again, spend it on prostitutes once again, and it will be made into idols all over again.

b) What YHWH had commanded the people to do in the law is what He will now do since they did not!

➤ Matthew 23:25

C. Have you ever thought the answer to the prayer, "*Father in heaven, may your name be hallowed and your kingdom come,*" could look like the coming Micah describes here?

III. How do we Respond to the King's Coming (1:8-16)

A. God's Response to Judgment (8-9)

i. Micah's lament and mourning.

Michael J. Williams (The Prophet and His Message): *It is not as though they are performing a dramatic skit, after which they return to their seat in the temple. The prophets' lives in their entirety are used by God as virtual living billboards that advertise his intentions.*

"...exactly whose emotions are we seeing? The prophet's? Or God's? Here again, God intends for us to see in the extreme emotion of this prophet the profound depth of his sorrow over the broken relationship with his people. ...it is not only the words of the prophets that have revelational content, but also their affections."

ii. Jackals sound like a uncontrollable crying and ostriches this deep guttural moaning. Together they picture what to the Jewish mind meant mourning.

iii. *the wound has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.*

iv. Who is like God? One who can both pronounce the truth of the coming judgment and weep because of it.

B. Man's Response to Judgment (16)

i. Another aspect of Jewish mourning.

ii. Micah is calling for mourning over the sin, for repentance.