

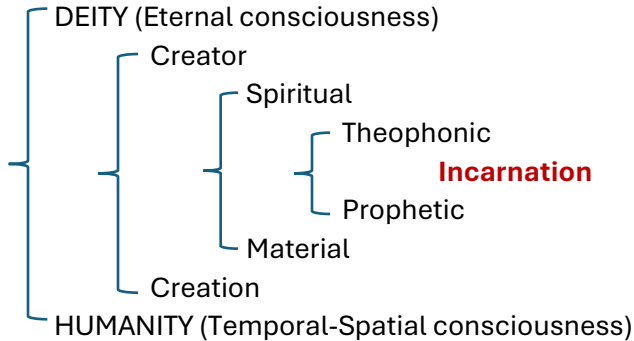
Micah

“Who is like Yah?”

Chapter 1

11 July 2024

Forms of divine communication



Offices of divine communication

DEITY → HUMANITY

- 1 Creator → Creature
- 2 Provident → Provision
- 3 Prophet → Message
- 4 Priest → Access
- 5 King → Rule
- 6 Judge → Justice
- 7 Savior → Life

Prophetic status

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Inspired (unknown): | Local teacher |
| 2 Message (doubted): | Travelling preacher |
| 3 Foretelling (noticed): | Raving lunatic |
| 4 Fulfillment (affirmed): | Prophetic voice |
| 5 Authority (heard): | Believed or rejected |
| 6 School (preserved): | Words preserved |
| 7 Scripture (final edits): | Widely believed |
| 8 Canon (believed): | Cited authority |
| 9 Quoted (affirmed): | New Testament proofs |

Micah = “Who (is) like Yah(weh)?”

מִיכָה Mîkah short for מִיכַיָּהוּ Mîkayah

מִי = Mî = who

כֵּ = Ke = like

יָהּ = Yah = Yahweh (Yah = more ancient)

- Prophesied circa 750–686 BC.
- From Moresheth near Gath in Judah.
- Contemporary of Isaiah and of Hosea.
- Mentioned by Jeremiah (26:18).



MICAH CHAPTER 1

Book of Micah, structure

Four oracles begin with “Listen!”

- 1 Judgment is coming (1:1–2:13).
- 2 Restoration will follow judgment (3:1).
- 3 The charge against Israel and promise of salvation (6:1).
- 4 Dishonest business and politics (6:9)

Micah’s message

- The main charges against both nations:
 - Idolatry:** False beliefs. Disloyalty.
 - Injustice:** Evil behavior. Dishonesty.
- The fulfilled prediction of Samaria City’s fall (1:6) served to support the predicted fall of Jerusalem City (7:8-9).
- The book is written in Hebrew poetry, rich in rhyming ideas.

Assyria

- A Mesopotamian empire from the 14th century BC to the 7th century BC.
- In the Neo-Assyrian period (911–609 BC), it had the most powerful army.
- It fell to a coalition of Babylonians and Medes in the late 7th century BC.

Assyria in Israel and Judah

- Tiglath-Pileser III (r. 745 to 727 BC) invaded Aram (Syria), Philistia, Israel and Judah in 734-32 BC.
- Samaria City fell to the Assyrians in 722/721 BC (Mic. 1:6).
- Jerusalem revolted against Assyria in 701 BC, and Sennacherib’s army was destroyed in 686 (Isa. 37:36-37).

Babylon

Old Babylonia: 19th – 16th centuries BC.

King Hammurabi (r. 1792 – 1750 BC).

Neo-Babylonia: 7th – 6th centuries BC.

Nabopolassar (625-605).

Nebuchadnezzar (605-562).

Persian Period: 6th – 4th centuries BC.

Cyrus (539-530).

Darius I (522-486).

Micah 1:1 (Samaria, Israel and Jerusalem, Judah)

- Jotham: r. 759-744
- Ahaz: r. 743-728
- Hezekiah: r. 727-699

58km = 36 miles apart

Samaria, est. pop. under 50,000, elev. 300 ft.

Jerusalem, est. pop. Under 30,000, elev. 2577 ft.



MICAH CHAPTER 1

Micah 1:2 (First oracle)

- All: Or both (Israelites and Judahites).
- Earth: Or land (formally Canaan).
- Adonai: Lit. 'My Lords'. Israel's God.

Micah 1:3-4 (High places)

- In the Baal Cycle, an Ugaritic text dating back to around 1500–1300 BC, Ba'al's abode is on the Syrian Mount Zaphon (Sapanu) which means 'north'.
- "Mount Zion, in the far north [zaphon], the city of the great King." Psa. 48:2b

Micah 1:5-6 (Transgressions)

- High place: pagan worship site.
- Fulfilled: Assyrian invasion 722/721 BC.

Micah 1:7 (Idolatry in Samaria)

- From the fee of a prostitute
- To the fee of a prostitute

Micah 1:8-9 (Jerusalem next)

Assyria in Judah (2 Kings 18)

- 701: Sennacherib captures Jerusalem and collects tribute from Hezekiah.
- 690: Sennacherib sacks cities and towns in Judah. Exiles 200,000 Judeans.
- 688: A major setback for Sennacherib in Judah. See 2 Kings 19:35
- 681: Sennacherib's sons assassinate him in his god's temple. 19:37

Micah 1:10-12 (Cities of Judah)

- How can an enemy invasion be said to come down from Yahweh?
- How could the USA ever be invaded?

Micah 1:13-16 (Same transgression as in Israel)

Assyrian captivity (exiles)

- 732: Galilee and Naphtali are deported to Assyria.
- 731: Tiglath-Pileser captures Damascus and kills King Rezin of Syria.
- 724: Shalmaneser V of Assyria seizes Hoshea and lays siege to Samaria.
- 722: Samaria falls to the Assyrians. "The ten 'lost tribes of Israel.'"

Babylonian captivity (exiles)

- 605: Nebuchadnezzar invades Judah.
- 605: The first wave of deportation of Judeans to Babylon.
- 597: The Babylonians capture Jerusalem and King Jehoiachin. 2nd deportation.
- 586: Babylonians sack Jerusalem and destroy the Temple. 3rd deportation.
- Till 582: Additional deportations.

