

A photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, walking barefoot on a path covered with fallen leaves. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, creating a soft, bokeh effect in the background. The person is wearing a dark, thin-strapped garment.

Act JUSTLY
Love MERCY
Walk HUMBLLY

MICAH

BIBLE STUDIES FOR ASHFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Micah 1-2: Incurable Sin

Read Micah 1

1. When did the word of the Lord come to Micah? What was it concerning?

Read 2 Chronicles 27:1-6, 28:1-5, and 29:1-10. What were the three kings like?

2. Who is Micah speaking to in verses 2-5? What does Micah call them to do? What does he say about God?

3. What does the imagery in vv3-4 represent?

4. Why is God angry? What is he going to do?

What is the response of Micah (v8-16)? Use the list → to identify the “dad jokes” he uses to identify the punishments God brings to the various towns.

Meaning of Names

Gath = tell
Beth Ophrah = house of dust
Shaphir = beautiful
Zaanan = come out
Beth Ezel = house of taking away
Maroth = bitter
Lachish = to the steeds
Moresheth-gath = one who is betrothed
Achzib = deception
Mareshah = conqueror
Adullam = symbolic of hostility, David’s exile in 2 Sam 23:13

5. What would you say to a friend who says, “God loves me; therefore, I can live however I want to live?”

6. Read Micah 2 and divide the passage into smaller sections, each with a short title.

Verses	Title
1-5	
6-7a	
7b-11	
12-13	

7. Who are “those” in verse 1 and what have they done?

What are the consequences for the evil deeds of “those” people? Do you think God over-reacted?

8. From v6-7a, what is the perception of God to those whom asked Micah not to preach?
9. God responds in V7b-13. In verse 10, why is it that “this is not your resting place”? (cf. Deut. 28:9-11; 15-16)
10. **Read Micah 2:12-13.** It’s a tricky section, and commentators are divided on its precise meaning. What metaphor is God using for his relationship with the remnant of his people in v12? (See also Ezekiel 34:11-16; Ps 23; John 10:10-11)

Does v13 continue this metaphor? (See John 10:2-4 for help)

The context refers to God bringing the people back from exile. How do you see Jesus providing a greater fulfilment of these promises?

Application

11. How has the study today shaped you in thinking about our God as the God of justice (punishing sin), yet the God of mercy (sending Jesus). How will you respond to the gospel message?

Prayer Points

Micah 3-5: Inevitable Kingdom

1. **Read Micah 3.** How are the rulers of Israel behaving (v1-4)?

How will God respond to these leaders?

2. How did the prophets lead God's people astray (v5-8)? What motivates them?

What will happen to these false prophets?

What does a true prophet look like (v8)?

3. Who is v9-12 addressed to? What are their sins?

What do they claim in V11?

What will happen to Jerusalem because of them?

4. These leaders claim that they lean on God even when they are transgressing against God. How do we tend to do the same?
5. Are there ways in which corrupt leadership still pollutes the church today? How does this impact the health of the church and our witness to the world?

Read Micah 4.

6. Can you identify three/four time periods in this chapter?
 - V11: But now many nations are gathered against you
 - V10 You will go to Babylon
 - V10 There the LORD will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies
 - V1 In the last days
7. Why is the exile described like a labour before a birth (v10 – see also 5:3)?
8. What will happen in “the last days”?

What is Micah referring to? Is it Israel after the return from exile, or some future time? Or both?

Read Micah 5:1-15

9. In contrast to the bad news of defeat and exile in v1, v2 and v4 describe a coming ruler. What are his characteristics and what will be achieved over Israel's enemies (v5b-9)?

10. What will God do "in that day" in Israel (v10-15)? Is this a positive or negative act?

Application

11. In life, what do we look to in the same way Israel looked to these things? What can we do to replace our reliance on worldly sources of security?

12. Identify again all the aspects of God's future kingdom from these two chapters.

What are we, as the church, to "do" with this picture?

Long for it?

Work to make our present world reflect it so people might see God and his kingdom amongst us?

Let it inspire us to persevere in the face of living in a fallen world?

Prayer Points

Micah 6-7: Inescapable Judgment

Read Micah 6

1. Verses 1-5 paint the picture of a courtroom trial. Fill in the table, identifying who plays each of the parts.

Plaintiff / aggrieved party	
Messenger on behalf of the plaintiff	
Witnesses and jury	
Defendant / the accused	

What is God's complaint?

What is it about Balaam and Balak that the people are to remember (see Numbers 22-24)?

2. A representative of the people responds in v6-7. What is he willing to offer God in worship?
3. What, instead, does God require of us (v8)? What does he think of the representative's suggestions?

God has done far more for us, in Jesus. What does he require of us? Are there New Testament verses that teach something similar? (try James 1:27; Mt 25:36; Heb 12:28-13:5)

4. Verses 9-12, 16a describe the ongoing sin of the people, and why God is not interested in their sacrifices. How does this show that they have violated the standard required by God in v8?
5. Verses 13-15, 16b describe God's punishment – what he is currently doing in the land. This is just what God promised he would do if the people were unfaithful to the covenant (see Deuteronomy 28:30-31, 38-46). How would you describe life under this curse?

Read Micah 7

In this concluding chapter God promises to restore His people who repent and show faithfulness to Him.

6. Verses 1-6 are the lament of a faithful member of the community. Why is he mourning? Of what is there a famine in the land?

What is the mourner's response (v7-10)?

Where does he place his confidence?

7. The speaker in v11-14 seems to be the prophet. What does he say to Jerusalem (v11-12)? What does he say to God?

How does God respond (v15)?

8. The prophet responds to God on behalf of the people (v16-20). What does the future hold for God's people?

On what does Micah place his confidence?

Application

9. Micah lamented that the godly had perished from the land and that there was an absence of upright people (Micah 7:2). The godly play a vital role in society. Jesus said we are to be salt and light in the world (cf. Mat 5:13-16). In light of the study, how can we be the salt and light to the people around us?
10. In the NT, we learn of a time when the ungodly will increase (cf. 2 Tim 3:1-5). We may also see this happening in our universities, workplaces, and society. What can we learn from our study of Micah about how we are to respond in such situations?

Prayer Points