

The Prophet Micah

Prayer: Dear Lord, You gave Your word many years ago. But still today Your word is true for our lives. As we study the book Micah, please make us see Your message for us. Show us our sins that we must repent. Show us our Savior Jesus and the forgiveness of sins. Give us Your Holy Spirit to lead us in true Christian faith and life. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Author

The man who wrote this book is named Micah. His name means, "Who is like Yahweh." It could be a question, "Who is like Yahweh?" meaning Yahweh is the greatest and no one is like Him.

Place

Micah lived in Moresheth Gath (Micah 1:1). If you look on a map, look west of Jerusalem. He lived in Judah, the Southern Kingdom. But he prophesied to both Judah and Israel (the Northern Kingdom).

Date

Micah 1:1 says that God's word came to Micah while Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah. That means he began prophesying between 740 – 732 B.C. (Jotham's reign) and ended between 713 – 686 B.C. (Hezekiah's reign). Micah was a prophet at the same time as Isaiah.

Setting

People in Israel and Judah were both not following God. But Israel was worse and did much idol worship. During Micah's ministry, Assyria destroyed Israel in the north in 722 B.C. Assyria also defeated many cities in Judah, but God protected Jerusalem. King Hezekiah was a good king and led the people to worship the true God. But the people were not all good and they still needed God's warning.

Theme

People at that time were rich and living well, but they ignored people who were poor and needy. They looked religious, but they were hypocrites. Micah preached judgment on them. He also preached hope, because God will not destroy, but will forgive and build them up again. Micah also gave several prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus. There are three main parts, chapters 1-2, 3-5, and 6-7.