A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR
PROPHETS

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Micah: Justice

MAJOR STUFF

FROM THE

minor prophets

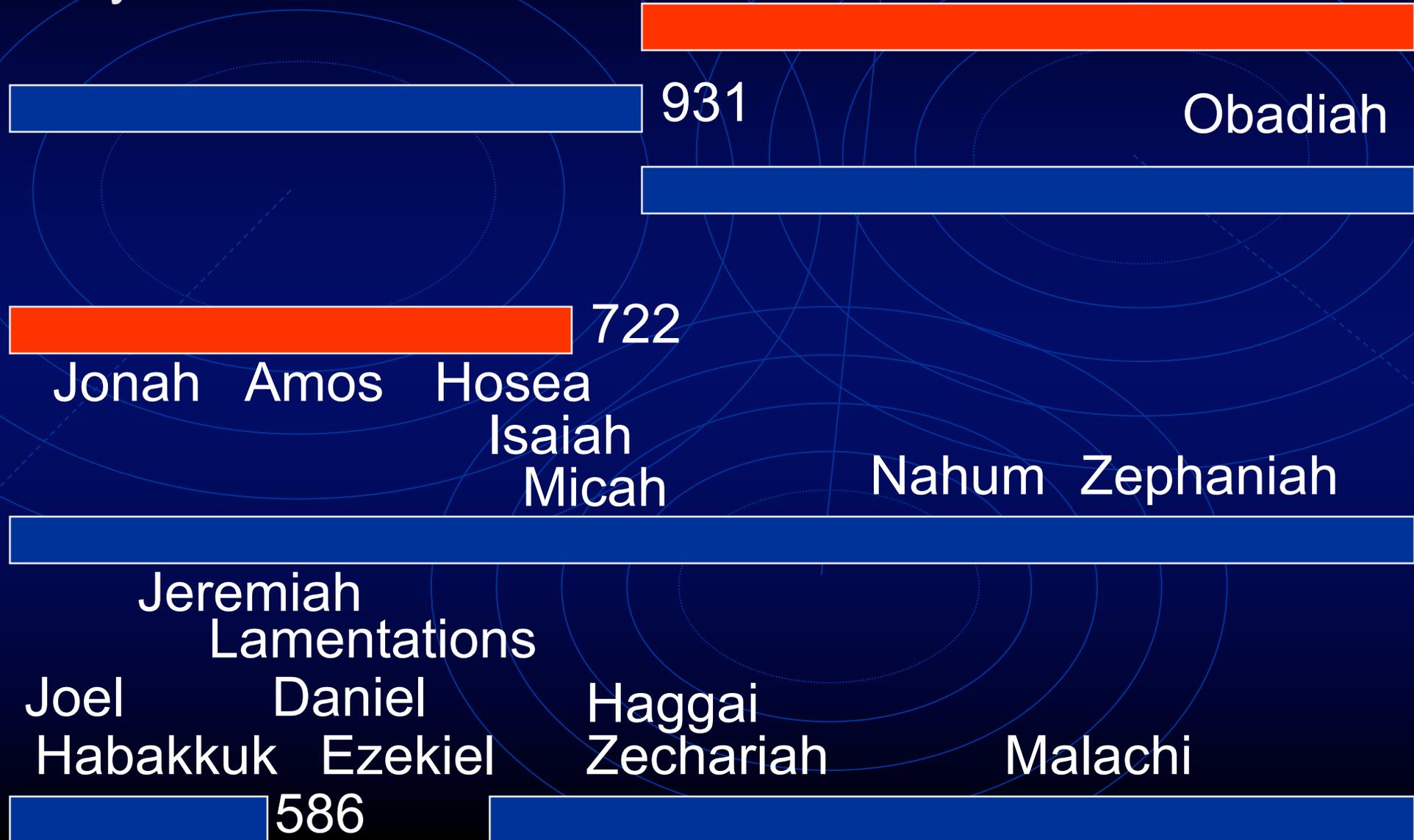
Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Micah

Justice

Placing the Prophets

Key Dates



Author & Background

- ✦ Micah was a prophet/farmer from the small town of Moresheth Gath, southwest of Jerusalem between 740-700 BC. Micah's name means *"Who is like God."*
- ✦ Micah describes his calling as a prophet in 3:8, *"But 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, to Israel his sin."*

Author & Background

- ✦ The book describes the injustice of Judah and the **righteousness and justice** of Yahweh. Micah prophesied during a period of intense **social injustice. False prophets preached for riches**, not for righteousness.
- ✦ Priests ministered more for greed than for God. Landlords stole from the **poor** and evicted **widows**. Judges lusted after bribes. Businessmen used deceitful scales and weights. Sin had infiltrated every segment of society.

Key Verse

Micah 6:8 *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To **act justly** and to **love mercy** and to **walk humbly** with your God.”*



Micah Preached Courageously

Micah Outline

✦ **Act Justly** – Sins of the Nation and Judgment (Ch. 1-3)

✦ **Love Mercy** – Restoration and Hope (Ch. 4-5)

✦ **Walk Humbly** – Call for Repentance (Ch. 6-7)

EXPECTATIONS

1. JUSTICE

2. MERCY

3. HUMILITY

DISAPPOINTMENT

1. INJUSTICE

2. IMMORALITY

3. IDOLATRY

ACT JUSTLY

LOVE MERCY

WALK HUMBLLY

MICAH 6:8

MICAH hk'ymi

Judgment on Israel & Judah for Exploitation

Israel's Exploitation			Leader's Exploitation		Wicked Ritualism		
Chapters 1-2 "Hear..." (1:2)			Chapters 3-5 "Hear..." (3:1)		Chapters 6-7 "Hear..." (6:1)		
Punishment then Blessing			Punishment then Blessing		Punishment then Blessing		
Wealth (2:1-2, 8-12)			Wealth (3:1-3, 9-11)		Wealth (6:10-12; 7:16)		
Destruction of Samaria and Judah 1:2-16	Judgment for Exploitation 2:1-11	Regathering 2:12-13	Judgment for Exploitation Chap 3	Messianic Blessing 4-5	Religious and Ritual Exploitation 6:1-8	Wickedness 6:9-7:6	Confidence 7:7-20
Israel and Judah							
735-710 BC (Before, During, and After the Fall of Israel)							

Oracle #1 – Punishment, Judgment

(Vs. 1:2) “Hear, you peoples, all of you, listen, earth and all who live in it, that the Sovereign LORD may bear witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.”

Each of the three sermons begin with a call to listen or hear!

(Vs. 1:7) “All her idols will be broken to pieces; all her temple gifts will be burned with fire; I will destroy all her images. Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used.” Judgment is announced against both the **Northern and Southern Kingdoms** of Judah and Israel. Judgment due to idolatry, *“high places.”*

Oracle #1 – Sins

(Vs. 1:8) *“Because of this I will weep and wail; I will go about barefoot and naked. I will **howl like a jackal and moan like an owl.**”* Micah became a **symbolic sign** himself as a prophet for the message of God. He expresses his pain for the injustice in the land.

(Vs. 1:16) *“Shave your heads in mourning for the children in whom you delight; make yourself as **bald as the vulture,** for they will go from you into exile.”* Micah challenges the people to repent for the sake of their children and the **next generation** that will be taken off in exile if the nation does not repent.

Oracle #1 – Fraud

(Vs. 2:1-2) *“Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who **plot evil on their beds!** At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. They **covet** fields and they seize them, and houses, and they take them. They **defraud** a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance (Land).”* They were committing injustice and defrauding people of their land.

(Vs. 2:11) *“If a **liar and deceiver** comes and says, ‘I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,’ that would be just the prophet for this people!”* **Prosperity Gospel by false prophets!**

Oracle #1 – Bribes

*(Vs. 3:11-12) “Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests **teach for a price**, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they look for the LORD’s support and say, “Is not the LORD among us? **No disaster will come upon us.**” Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.” **Judgment for sin!***

Micah 4:1-5:15 Oracle #2 – Promise

*(Vs. 4:1-3) “In the last days the **mountain of the LORD’s temple** will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. **Many nations** will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. **The law** will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from **Jerusalem**. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. **They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.**”*
PEACE!

Oracle #2 – Restoration

(Vs. 4:4-5) “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.” Micah prophesied about the peace in the Kingdom of God. This **inscription** is on the **United Nations building**.

Oracle #2 – Forgiveness

(Vs. 4:1-5) “In that day declares the Lord, I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation.” Micah promises restoration and hope after the exile because God is faithful and will never completely forsake his people. *God saves a remnant to renew the kingdom.*

(Vs. 5:2) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Prophecy regarding Jesus as the Messiah.

Spiritual Formation

“Walk Humbly”

Personal

Engage in Acts of Prayer

“Love Tenderly”

Inter-Personal

Engage in Acts of Mercy

Micah
Spirituality

“Act Justly”

Public

Engage in Acts of Justice

Oracle #2 – Exaltation

(Vs. 5:7-9) *“The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or depend on man. The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue. Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.”*

Exaltation of the People of God, by extending grace to a remnant. God displays his grace through not giving up his people. TALK THE TALK-WALK THE WALK

Micah 6:1-7:20 – Oracle #3 – Pardon

(Vs. 6:1-2) “Listen to what the LORD says: Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.” Legal language from a court of law.

*(Vs. 6:8) “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” God wants his people to change the world by following these **three simple principles.***



on the road to pleasing God

Micah 6:1-7:20 – Oracle #3 – Pardon

Act Justly- Justice, Fairness, and Righteousness define the nature of God. Fair play. It means making sure that all God's children inherit their fair share of God's good gifts.

Love Mercy- God is gracious and expects to forgive as we have been forgiven. The Hebrew term rendered here as mercy, hesed. It is a relationship word. It has the connotation of “getting inside someone's skin,” “look at it through my eyes,” or “put yourself in my shoes.” Hesed produces a changed perspective to be empathetic and to love others the way they need to be loved.

Walk Humbly with God- Dependence and humility towards God surrenders to his will. Obedience to God's will and faith in God's promise maintain our relationship with God. It is a deep desire to see the world through the eyes of God, to act in the world as God would act.

God's Requirements

✦ Behavior – Act Justly – Body – **Work**
Fairly

✦ Emotion – Love Mercy – Mind –
Worship Gracefully

✦ Mind – Live Faithfully – Spirit – **Walk**
Humbly

ACT JUSTLY.

LOVE MERCY.

WALK HUMBLLY.

Justice

 God/Judge

 Creation/Jury

 Jesus/Defense

 Us/Defendant

 Satan/Prosecutor

 Neighbors/Witness

 Bible/Law

 Deeds/Evidence

 Angel/Bailiff

 Words/Testimony

Mercy

-  Inflames Passion
-  Ignites Emotions
-  Inspires Heart
-  Motives Kindness
-  Fuels Forgiveness
-  Make Brotherhood
-  Bonds Community
-  Feeds Love
-  Pardons Sin
-  Imitates God

Humility

 **Renews Faith**

 **Trusts Despite**

 **Believes All**

 **Hopes Again**

 **Imagines More**

 **Dreams Daily**

 **Rejoices Always**

 **Envision Great**

 **Reveres Gratefully**

 **Praises Continually**

Micah 6:1-7:20 – Oracle #3 – Pardon

*(Vs. 7:18-19) “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the **remnant** of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to **show mercy**. You will again have **compassion** on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the **depths of the sea.**”*

Faithfulness! We worship a God of mercy who truly forgives our guilt and shame.

Lessons Learned

1. **God's anger is provoked by *extortion*.**
2. **God's anger is provoked by *false teaching*.**
3. **God's anger is provoked by *greed*.**
4. **God expects *justice* among his creation.**
5. **God expects *mercy* among his creation.**
6. **God expects *humility* among his creation.**
7. **God maintains a *remnant* of his people.**

MICAH

DO JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY.
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.