

Micah – The Shepherd’s Lawsuit Against a Corrupt Nation

Introduce the Man – Rural Prophet, Bold Voice

Micah, whose name means “Who is like the LORD?” (מִיכָה), comes from Moresheth-gath, a rural village in Judah (Micah 1:1, Jeremiah 26:18). He is not a court prophet, not tied to Jerusalem’s religious establishment, and not softened by proximity to power.

He ministers during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Micah 1:1), overlapping with Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1). Yet where Isaiah often addresses kings and courts, Micah speaks with the grit of a country preacher confronting urban corruption.

This is a man who sees clearly because he stands at a distance (1 Corinthians 1:26–29). He is bold, direct, and unafraid to name names or expose systems (Micah 3:8).

Describe the Corruption – Not Paganism, but Hypocrisy

Micah does not primarily confront pagan nations. He confronts Israel and Judah (Micah 1:5).

The problem is not that they have abandoned religion. The problem is that they have maintained religion while abandoning righteousness (Isaiah 1:11–17, Amos 5:21–24).

- They covet and seize land (Micah 2:1–2)
- Leaders devour the people they are supposed to protect (Micah 3:1–3, Ezekiel 34:2–4)
- Prophets preach for pay (Micah 3:5, Micah 3:11)
- Priests teach for hire (Micah 3:11)

All the machinery of religion is intact (Jeremiah 7:4). Sacrifices are offered. Worship continues. But it is hollow (Hosea 6:6).

This is corruption under the cover of orthodoxy (2 Timothy 3:5). Not rebellion that looks like rebellion, but rebellion dressed up as faithfulness.

Explain the Lawsuit – God vs. His Own People

Micah frames his message as a covenant lawsuit (Micah 6:1–2, Hosea 4:1).

God calls creation itself as witness (Deuteronomy 4:26, Deuteronomy 30:19, Isaiah 1:2). The mountains and hills, which have seen Israel’s entire history, are summoned to hear the case.

God then presents His argument:

- I brought you out of Egypt (Micah 6:4, Exodus 20:2)
- I redeemed you from bondage (Deuteronomy 7:8)
- I gave you leaders (Micah 6:4)

- I delivered you (Micah 6:5, Numbers 22–24)

The implication is clear: What have I done to deserve this response? (Micah 6:3)

This is not arbitrary judgment. This is covenant violation (Deuteronomy 28:15–68). Israel stands guilty not of ignorance, but of breach.

Highlight the Requirement – Micah 6:8

The people respond with a question (Micah 6:6–7). What will satisfy God? More sacrifices? Thousands of rams? Rivers of oil?

Micah cuts through the noise (1 Samuel 15:22):

- Do justly – act with equity and righteousness in dealings (Leviticus 19:15)
- Love mercy – embrace covenant loyalty () (Hosea 6:6)
- Walk humbly – live in submission, not presumption (Deuteronomy 10:12)

The issue is not lack of religious activity. The issue is lack of alignment with what God already said (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Point to the King – Micah 5:2

In the middle of judgment, Micah introduces hope (Micah 4:1–3). Not vague hope, but specific, located, and rooted in promise.

Bethlehem is small, overlooked, insignificant (1 Samuel 16:1, 1 Samuel 16:11). Yet it becomes the origin point of the coming ruler (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:5–6).

This ruler:

- Is tied to David’s line (2 Samuel 7:12–16)
- Will shepherd Israel (Micah 5:4, Ezekiel 34:23)
- Stands in contrast to the corrupt leaders Micah condemns (Micah 3:1–4)

The failure of current leadership does not cancel God’s plan (Isaiah 9:6–7). It sets the stage for a different kind of King.

End with God’s Character – Micah 7:18

Micah closes where his name begins (Micah 7:18, Exodus 15:11).

After judgment, after exposure, after the lawsuit is settled, God is still characterized by mercy (Exodus 34:6–7).

- He pardons iniquity (Micah 7:18)
- He delights in mercy (Micah 7:18)
- He does not retain anger forever (Psalm 103:8–9)

Judgment is real, but it is not the final word (Lamentations 3:31–33). Restoration remains in view (Micah 7:19–20).

Micah begins with confrontation and ends with astonishment. Who is like the LORD? No one—because no one judges like He does, and no one forgives like He does.