

MICAH

Written by Micah around 740 B.C.

- Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea
- Written to warn Israel that God's judgment was coming
- but also that pardon is available to all who repent

The first 3 chapters are the warnings to the people of God, their oppressors and their leaders

Ch. 4 describes the world at peace in the latter days

- very likely describing the millennial reign

Mic 4:3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

Mic 4:4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

Mic 4:7 "I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

Ch. 5 describes the birth of the coming Messiah

- probably the most popular verse from Micah is this:

Mic 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

If this verse sounds familiar, it's because we hear it every year during the Christmas story:

Mat 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Mat 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Mat 2:5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

Mat 2:6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

-hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Micah prophesies the place of His birth

-this is only one of about 456 Old Testament prophesies of the coming Messiah

-Jesus fulfilled every one

-could that be just coincidence?

Scientific studies have been done to check the odds of any one person fulfilling a set number of prophesies

-instead of dealing with all 456, this study looks at the likelihood of someone fulfilling only 8 prophesies:

After examining only eight different prophecies (Idem, 106), they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} .

To illustrate how large the number 10^{17} IS (a figure with 17 zeros), Stoner gave this illustration

If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten.

Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They'll cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would've had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom (Idem, 106-107).

-and that only deals with 8 of the 456 prophesies

-the chance of any one person fulfilling all of them are non-existent

-most mathematicians agree that anything beyond 1 in 10 to 50th have a zero probability of it happening by random chance

-so the argument that "you just can't know for sure" is invalid

-the point is that this is not just an interesting fact

-it actually takes much more faith to believe that Jesus was not the Messiah then to believe He was

Have you ever struggled with what God wants from you?

-man, if He would just tell me plainly

-or show me in a dream

-or write it in the sky

The Israelites struggled with the same question

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come to the LORD *And* bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves?

Mic 6:7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Mic 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

That's it??

-what about serving, tithing, witnessing, missions???

-those are all good and noble things

-But we should do those out of gratitude, not obligation

Peter reiterates the same though:

1Pe 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

The book closes with Micah admitting that they are wicked

-but then concludes that God is their salvation

Mic 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

Mic 7:8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.

Jesus Type:

Micah prophesied that deliverance would come through the Messiah

- he predicts place of birth.

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Then in Ch. 4:2 (describing Jesus in the Millennial reign)

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