



Southwell
Minster

*The Cathedral and Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



GROWING
DISCIPLES

Wider Younger Deeper

Micah

James Halstead

Welcome & Introduction: Background and Overview

1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw in visions concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

The Word of YAHWEH

⇒ To Micah

“Who is like Yah(weh)?”

Cf 7:18 “Who is a God like you?”

⇒ In the time of Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah: ~740-690BC

ASSYRIA

The ‘Land’ (cf Gen 12:1-3)

Prophecy to effect a change: a Hopeful Book

Q: What are your first impressions, having read through Micah?

Q: What do you make of the 'ethics' of all this: Israel are to enjoy God's blessing (peace in the Land) when they are faithful; the prophet speaks of coming Judgement in order that they might repent...?

Judgement

Structure of the book: 3 cycles

1:2-2:13

3:1-5:15

6:1-7:20

⇒ Arrogant, greedy selfishness

3:2 – gruesome imagery...

3:9 - ...now described in real terms: exploitation & cold, hard ££...

Kings
Priests
Prophets

3:11 - ...astonishing arrogance!

⇒ Chapter 1

“Start with a climax, and build from there!” (Cecil B de Mille): 1:3 is the climax

God in his greatness (vv3-4)

God in his holiness (because v5)

A prophecy against all (e.g. v2)...

...including, even, to the gates of Jerusalem (v12)

2:6 - ...astonishing arrogance!

Q: What do you think judgement looks like today? If the path to God's blessing is a good – but narrow – path, what's the consequence of stepping off that path?

Q: We often try to live in a way which demonstrates God's gentle kindness. How does your life also testify to God's mighty strength and holiness?

Hope

Judgement & Hope: speaking of an *apparent* future to create a *different* future:

In the face of chapter 1 devastation: chapter 4 hope

But 'hope' from a place of 'weakness'

4:6 – the lame, the outcast, the afflicted

4:10 – rescue from 'there' (the place of exile)

And 'Messianic hope' from a place of 'weakness'

In the context of destructive judgement:

5:2 – Bethlehem (small)

5:4 – shepherd

5:5 – peace

...and true worship: restored.

Q: How might we think of our current, locked-down, Covid-centred season of weakness as an opportunity to be called back to God's salvation?

Q: What one image or idea from Micah will stick with you from exploring the book today?

Micah 7: a personal view?

7:1-7	The World I See
7:8-13	The One I Trust
7:14-20	The Hope I Pray