**Micah**

**Judgment and Restoration**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

The Golden Era of the Israel’s history occurred when the 12 tribes were united under the leadership of Kings Saul, David, and Solomon. However, with the death of Solomon, the nation fractured into Northern and Southern Kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom was called “Israel;” the Southern Kingdom was known as “Judah.”

The Southern Kingdom of Judah consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and was generally more faithful in its worship of the True and Living God – the One who promised to defeat the source of evil and restore His good creation. However, Judah’s faithfulness was inconsistent and would eventually dissolve into apostacy, but at least they tried.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel was formed by an alliance of the 10 other tribes. From the beginning, they established Calf Worship and Baal Worship as a way to create national pride and unity – and maintain a distinctiveness from Judah. There were a couple of leaders who immerged in the north who made some attempt to create God-honoring reforms, but generally, the record shows a pathetic series of wicked kings and influencers.

Because of their unfaithfulness, the Lord raised up a series of prophets to speak to both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. These prophets promised blessings and rewards if the people would live according to God’s ways, and sure destruction if they failed to do so. Most of the time a particular prophet directed their messages to either the people of the North or of the South.

**What you need to KNOW:**

Micah’s messaging alternated between both Kingdoms. Often, when he was addressing Israel, he referenced their capital city of Samaria. And, in the same manner, the messages for Judah were spoken to their capital, Jerusalem.

Micah’s prophesies included condemnations for sin, guarantees of destruction, as well as, the promise of the eventual restoration of Jerusalem. This record of Micah’s messages is a bit jumbled requiring the reader to pay close attention to who is being spoken to and whether the words apply to the immediate situation, a near-future timeframe, or the final outcome of God’s redemptive work for His creation. As such, the messages move freely between prophesies of doom and of hope; promises of judgement and of deliverance.

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. He lived to see the destruction he foretold of the Northern Kingdom in 734 B.C by the Assyrians. The destruction of Jerusalem occurred after his death in 586 B.C. at the hands of the Babylonians.

It’s noteworthy that Micah predicted that the coming Messiah, Jesus, would be born in the town of Bethlehem (5:2). He made that ‘call’ hundreds of years before it occurred. Micah also succinctly summarized the rightly-lived-life as one in which we seek “to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God” (6:8).

**GET GOING!**

**Micah’s seven-chapter format lends itself nicely into a chapter-a-day week long stroll.**