

# Advice for the Church and the Nation | Part 1

Lesson 1

Micah 1:1-16

May 26, 2024

## Time for Judgment from God

### INTRODUCTION

Israel had been divided into two kingdoms because of David's sin with Bathsheba. Judah was the southern part of the united Israel. Israel had made a covenant with the Lord and had repeatedly broken its promises to worship only Him, to be a blessing to the nations around them, and to follow the laws of mercy, justice, and generosity written in their covenant. They had forsaken the God who had faithfully delivered them out of slavery from Egypt, given them the land He had promised them, and protected them repeatedly from enemies. God had given them chance after chance, warning after warning, mercy after mercy, and yet they remained unfaithful to God. Therefore, He had to bring Israel to heel. That is the context of Micah 1:1-16. God brings judgment to Israel for their unfaithfulness, and it was Micah's job as a prophet to warn them and call them back into faithfulness.

What do these verses have to do with us as modern-day followers of Jesus? We will all stand before God's judgment one day and give an account of our transgressions. The difference is that those who follow Jesus will be covered in His blood and, therefore, not be condemned because Christ has already paid the price. This passage reminds us of both God's justice and His mercy and reminds us to keep our covenant with God to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

***Memory verse: "Look! The LORD is coming from his dwelling place; he comes down and treads on the heights of the earth."  
—Micah 1:3***

Pray, and read Micah 1:1-16. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. Who were the kings of Judah who reigned during Micah's ministry of prophecy? (Micah 1:1)
2. Why did the Lord come down from "his dwelling place" to judge Judah and Israel, and what was His plan of punishment? (Micah 1:5-7)
3. How did God react to the devastation that was soon to occur? (Micah 1:8-9)
4. What is the result of this judgment against Israel? (Micah 1:10-15)
5. How did Micah instruct the Judeans and Israelites to express their grief? (Micah 1:16)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Micah's village suffered oppression during the reigns of Jotham (750-732 BCE) and Ahaz (735-715 BCE). How did these kings of Judah honor or dishonor the Lord? (2 Kings 15:32-35, 16:1-4; 2 Chronicles 27:2, 28:1-4)
  
2. Why did Micah tell Israel to, "Shave your head 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 1:16)
  
3. Verse 8 says, "Because of this I will weep and wail..." Why will God will weep and wail?

4. Why do you think Micah refers to Judah as Israel?

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. How can we, as followers of Jesus, ensure that we do not turn away from our covenant with God to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves?

2. Israel had been following false idols and worshiping false gods. An idol is anything you put before God. What might be some of the idols in your life that you need to turn away from?

3. How do these passages help inspire you to follow Jesus and honor our covenant with God?