MICAH

MICAH SIMPLIFIES LIFE

A COMMENTARY

FEB 2026 WALTER CATES

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We will get to how he simplified life in a bit. But first let's get to know who Micah was.

There were six Micah's of note in the Old Testament. Judges 17 and 18 mentions a Micah that worshiped false gods. The First Chronicles speaks of a descendant of Reubin. Another Micah was mentioned in the family tree of King Saul. There was the son of Zichri (1 Chr and Neh). The father of Abdon who was involved in King Josiah's sin.

Then there is Micah, a prophet who, simplified life, He is the subject of this commentary.

Micah was the Court Prophet for Judea. A younger contemporary of Isaiah, Micah was from the More Sheth Gath in southern Judea. Isaiah was called by God in 740-BC (All dates are approximate and most commonly accepted). Micah received his calling in 742-BC. He prophesied through the rein of three kings of Judea; Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah about 750 to 687.

In addition to giving the kings of Judea news they did not want to hear he spoke boldly against the throng of false prophets who spoke only words the Kings and their officials wanted to hear. He spoke out against the northern kingdom of Israel as well as Judea. He lived long enough to see the prophecies about Israel realized. He also witnessed the fall of most of Judea with the exception of Jerusalem.

The book of Micah is not a story of the deeds and life of the prophet. But rather it is a collection of his prophecies written in the antediluvian Jewish poetry style. They follow a familiar pattern of doom (1-2:11), salvation (2:12-13), doom (3:1-12), salvation (4:1-5:15), doom (6;1-7:7) salvation (7:8-20). The book of Micah follows the model of all the prophets of doom. Yes, all of the prophecies of all the prophets are filled with doom and destruction, *but every one also offers a glimmer of hope and redemption*

What were the challenges Micah faced while serving God through the reins of three kings? First was king Jotham. He was basically a good king who worshiped the One True God. He did improvements to the Temple, improved the fortifications of Jerusalem and many cities throughout Judea. His short fall was allowing the worship of false gods. There were many high places, Ashura poles, and idols throughout Judea.
Then came King Ahaz. Ahaz was totally corrupt, spiritually and morally. He was heavily involved in pagan god worship. He also closed and sealed the doors to the Temple of the one true God. Ahaz was forced to abdicate by a coalition of Israel and Syria. His son Hezekiah became King. Among his first actions as king, he unsealed the doors and opened the Temple. He destroyed the pagan high places, images and alters.
He went so far as to destroy the bronze serpent Moses had made, because the people had made it an idol of worship.

As you read the book of Micah try find what God disapproved of and what God expected from his people. The one true God loves his chosen and adopted people and when the castigation runs its course He will prove it.

AND NOW HOW DID MICAH SIMPLIFY LIFE

In chapter 6 verse 8 Micah condenses all of scripture into three sentences.

6:8He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And walk humbly with your God.

AMEN