

## OT-OV

### Lesson 133

1. Last week I finished our overview of the book of Jonah and began a study of the book of Micah.

2. We need to review some of that learned before continuing our analysis of Micah and his message to both Israel and Judah. We will pick up with new material on page three.

3. Micah was written from Judah by Micah in about 735. Both Micah and Isaiah, though addressing their prophecies primarily to Judah, make it clear that God's judgment will also fall on the Northern Kingdom. Micah also prophesies about the mercy of God on both Israel and Judah in the latter times.

4. The prophecy of Micah receives its title from the name of the prophet himself, which means, "Who is like Yahweh?"

5. Date and Authorship.

5.1 The date of the ministry is given in terms of the reigns of Jotham (739-735), Ahaz (735-715), and Hezekiah (715-687), kings of Judah (Mic 1:1).

5.2 Micah began his work at the time of Jotham and served through the entire reign of Ahaz and perhaps through all of that of Hezekiah. His writings show a close relationship to those of Isaiah. Both Micah and Isaiah, though addressing their prophecies primarily to Judah, make it clear that God's judgment will also fall on the Northern Kingdom.

5.3 That Micah prophesied during the reign of Hezekiah is attested by Jeremiah in Jer 26:18-19.

6. In arrangement and scope much of Micah is similar to Isaiah's prophecies. Because of the similarities there are those who think that parts of the Book of Micah are merely replications of Isaiah. Clearly given the conditions in Judah and Israel one would expect God's contemporary prophets to exclaim the same errors just as did Haggai and Zechariah.

6.1 It is my view and that of other grace expositors that the entire work is that of Micah, who prophesied at the time of Isaiah.

7. Micah was not from a large city, as his older contemporary was, but from the small village of Moresheth, which belonged to Gath.

7.1 He spoke as a man of the people, whose sympathy was with the country folk, and he sought to protect them against the greedy rich and the nobles of the capital cities.

7.1.1 Though the prophet lived and prophesied in the Southern Kingdom, he condemned the sins of the Northern Kingdom; and he prophesied and witnessed its fall.



7.2 Micah's prophecy is not presented in the form of a systematic treatise. This may be due to the fact that it contains a collection of oracles. The oratorical style and the literary form are that of a dramatic dialogue.

## 8. Historical Background

8.1 The Assyrian kings of this period were Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727), Shalmanezar V (727-722), Sargon II (722-705), and Sennacherib (705-681). Sennacherib led his army into the northern and western parts of Judah, subjugating cities and villages as he advanced, until he reached Jerusalem, which, though subjected to a long siege, was never taken. The Lord Himself intervened on behalf of Israel killing 185,000 Assyrians. 2Ki 18:13-17; 2Ki 18:28-29; 2Ki 19-7; 2Ch 32:20-22 and Isa 37:36-37

8.2 The prophecy concerning the eventual capture and destruction of Jerusalem points to the later time of Nebuchadnezzar. Assyria conquered the entire Near East except Egypt and Jerusalem.

8.3 Her armies, however, did not occupy all of these lands; rather, she required them, as subjugated nations, to pay annual tribute. When a new successor came to the throne of Assyria, the tributary kingdoms would revolt. Consequently, it would fall to the lot of the new ruler/s to re-subjugate all the previously held land by a series of military campaigns.

8.4 The most difficult campaigns were against the nations closest to Egypt. These border countries, acting as buffer states in bearing the brunt of war, were encouraged by Egypt in an effort to protect herself.

8.5 These were days of unrest, insecurity, and hardship, especially for the peasants and villagers. The harassment of the passing armies, which not infrequently overran the small villages and made slaves of their inhabitants, and caused a state of fear.

8.6 The political conditions in both Israel and Judah could not have been worse. The rulers, the wealthy, the conniving priests and prophets in the capital cities, feeling secure within strong fortifications, made the most of their power to oppress the poor.

8.7 The peasants had no protection either from the Assyrians or from the "grafters" of their own nation. To these wrongs Micah addressed himself, championing the cause of the oppressed.

8.8 Fearlessly following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he preached at the risk of his life. Micah's messages reflect the prevailing corruptions. His allusions to the Assyrians show what was the common topic of the day.

## 9. Outline

### I. Imminent Judgment on God's People (chapters 1-3)

#### A. The Coming of the Lord to Condemn (1:1-6)

Mic 1:4 The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope.

Mic 1:5 All this is because of Jacob's transgression, because of the sins of the house of Israel. What is Jacob's transgression? Is it not Samaria? What is Judah's high place? Is it not Jerusalem?

Mic 1:6 "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble, a place for planting vineyards. I will pour her stones into the valley and lay bare her foundations

#### B. The Condemnation of the Lord (1:7-16)

Mic 1:15 I will bring a conqueror against you who live in Mareshah (The first fortress city of the great citadel of Lachish.) He who is the glory of Israel will come to Adullam (area where David and his renegades resided in southwest Judah.)

Mic 1:16 Shave your heads in mourning for the children in whom you delight; make yourselves as bald as the vulture, for they will go from you into exile.

#### C. God's Judgment on the Greedy (chapter 2)

Mic 2:1 Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.

Mic 2:2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellow man of his inheritance.

## D. God's Judgment on the Mighty (chapter 3)

Mic 3:9 Hear this, you leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right ...

Mic 3:12 Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

## II. Ultimate Blessing for God's People (chapters 4-5)

### A. The Coming Kingdom (4:1-5:6)

Mic 4:1 In the last days the mountain of the LORD'S temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

### B. The Characteristics of the Coming Kingdom (5:7-15)

Mic 5:1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Mic 5:3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

Mic 5:4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Mic 5:5 And he will be their peace. When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses, we will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.

Mic 5:6 They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he invades our land and marches into our borders.

Mic 5:7 The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind.

Mic 5:8 The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue.

Mic 5:9 Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.

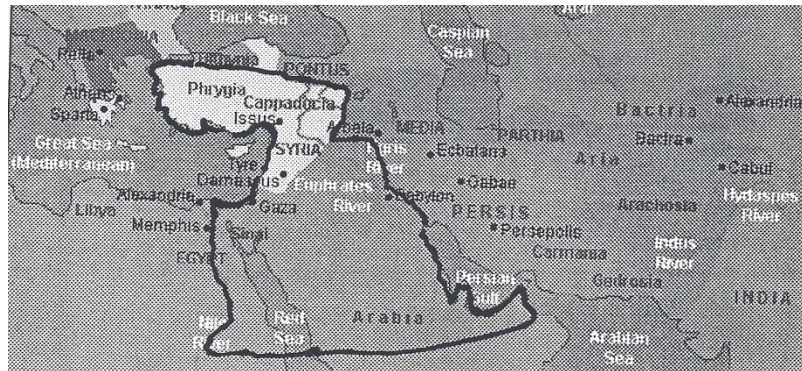
Mic 5:10 "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots.

Mic 5:11 I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds.

Mic 5:12 I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells.

Mic 5:13 I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.

Mic 5:14 I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities.  
Mic 5:15 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."



### III. Present Response of God's People (chapters 6-7)

#### A. God's "Lawsuit" against Israel (chapter 6)

Mic 6:1 Listen to what the LORD says: "Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say ...

Mic 6:13 Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins.

Mic 6:14 You will eat but not be satisfied; your stomach will still be empty. You will store up but save nothing, because what you save I will give to the sword.

Mic 6:15 You will plant but not harvest; you will press olives but not use the oil on yourselves, you will crush grapes but not drink the wine.

Mic 6:16 You have observed the statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab's house, and you have followed their traditions. Therefore I will give you over to ruin and your people to derision; you will bear the scorn of the nations."

#### B. Israel's Judgment and Restoration (chapter 7)

Mic 7:1 What misery is mine! I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave.

Mic 7:2 The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains. All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net ...

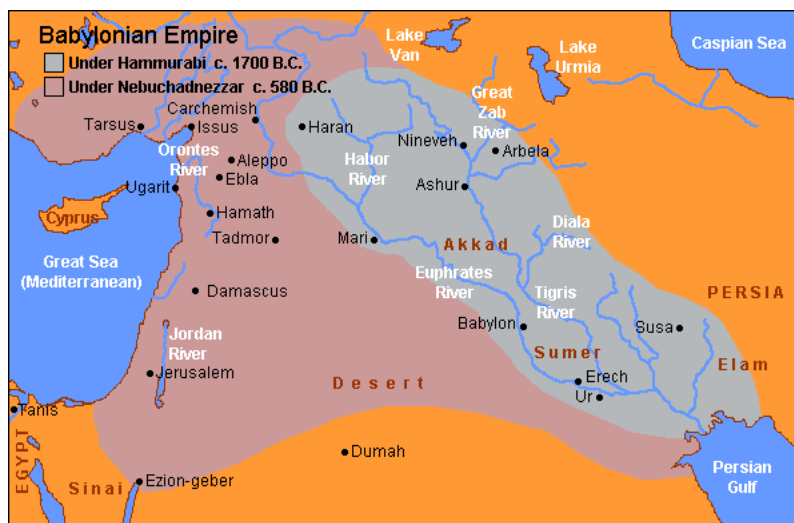
Mic 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Mic 7:19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Mic 7:20 You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

## Book of Nahum

Nahum was written by Nahum from Judah in about c. 650. The dating of the book is certainly problematic. The prophet predicts Nineveh will fall and since this prophecy came true in 612 many have concluded Nahum was penned the book shortly before the destruction of the city. As with every prophetic book in the Old Testament, this one bears the name of its author.



1. Nahum means "consolation" or "consoler." The nature of the contents of the prophecy is indicated in the title "burden." When used technically among the prophets, it signifies that which is a weight upon the heart of God and also upon the heart of the prophet; that is, a threatening or judgmental message.

2. The sole theme of the book is Nineveh, the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire.

### 3. Date and Authorship

3.1 The prediction of Nahum was penned probably shortly before the destruction of the city. Furthermore, in Nah 3:8 the prophet mentions the captivity of No (Thebes, the capital of Upper Egypt) as a historical event.

Nah 3:8 Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile, with water around her? The river was her defense, the waters her wall.

3.2 Ashurbanipal of Assyria (668-626 B.C.) brought about the downfall of the Egyptian city in the year 663. Hence, the book may be dated between 663. and 612., probably closer to the latter date.

3.3 Although nothing is known of Nahum's life, apart from the statement that he was an Elkoshite, no valid evidence has been presented to establish some other person as author of the prophecy.

3.4 Even the birthplace of the prophet is not known with certainty. Three principal suggestions as to its identity have been advanced.

3.4.1 It was a town north of Nineveh. This view is founded on a tradition coming from the sixteenth century.

3.4.2 Jerome, translator of the Vulgate version, identified it with a small village in Galilee. It cannot be maintained with certainty that Capernaum (lit., the village of Nahum) was named after the prophet.

3.4.3 A third view locates the city in the territory south of Judah. It may well be that Nahum was born in Galilee, and later ministered in the south.

### 4. Historical Background

4.1 Along with the prophets Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, Nahum was a witness to the Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom had been carried into captivity by Assyria almost a century before in c. 721.

4.2 Now it was in the purpose of God to visit that nation which had been the rod of God's anger upon Israel. Nineveh had genuinely repented in the days of Jonah the prophet, but she was now ready for judgment because of her cruelty, cupidity-all of which was a product of progressive idolatry.

4.3 She was ruthless in warfare and greedy for dishonest wealth. The power that had ruled western Asia for some three centuries was now to be broken by the combined might of the Babylonians and the Medes.

## 5. Outline

### I. Title > 1:1

Nah 1:1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

### II. The majestic God of Israel > 1:2-8

Nah 1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies.

Nah 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

Nah 1:4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

Nah 1:5 The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it.

Nah 1:6 Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

Nah 1:7 The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,

Nah 1:8 but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness.

### III. God's judgment on Assyria > 1:9-14

Nah 1:9 Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

Nah 1:10 They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble.

Nah 1:11 From you, O Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and counsels wickedness.

Nah 1:12 This is what the LORD says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be cut off and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, O Judah, I will afflict you no more.

Nah 1:13 Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."

Nah 1:14 The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the carved images and cast idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile."

### IV. Judah's deliverance > 1:15



Nah 1:15 Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.

#### V. A taunt song upon Nineveh > 2:1-2

Nah 2:1 An attacker advances against you, Nineveh. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!

Nah 2:2 The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, though destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines.

#### VI. The siege of Nineveh > 2:3-7

Nah 2:3 The shields of his soldiers are red; the warriors are clad in scarlet. The metal on the chariots flashes on the day they are made ready; the spears of pine are brandished.

Nah 2:4 The chariots storm through the streets, rushing back and forth through the squares. They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning.

Nah 2:5 He summons his picked troops, yet they stumble on their way. They dash to the city wall; the protective shield is put in place.

Nah 2:6 The river gates are thrown open and the palace collapses.

Nah 2:7 It is decreed that the city be exiled and carried away. Its slave girls moan like doves and beat upon their breasts.

#### VII. The doom of Nineveh > 2:8-10

Nah 2:8 Nineveh is like a pool, and its water is draining away. "Stop! Stop!" they cry, but no one turns back.

Nah 2:9 Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! The supply is endless, the wealth from all its treasures!

Nah 2:10 She is pillaged, plundered, stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale.

#### VIII. The reason for Nineveh's fall > 2:11-13

Nah 2:11 Where now is the lions' den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear?

Nah 2:12 The lion killed enough for his cubs and strangled the prey for his mate, filling his lairs with the kill and his dens with the prey.

Nah 2:13 "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."

End Lesson Taught