

Introducing **Micah**



Join us on the trip.

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The History of Israel : Fill in the blanks

in the land ← → out of land

Genesis

Abraham & his descendants promised ...

1. a great n
2. a l live in
3. a b to the nations

Jacob (Israel) - has 12 sons (tribes)

Promise
1
focus

Exodus

Egypt 12 tribes of Israel enslaved

M_____ : Leads the 12 tribes out of slavery

Leviticus Numbers

Deuteronomy

The tribes wander in the desert

Promise
2
focus

Joshua

J_____ : Leads the 12 tribes
into the promised land

Judges & Ruth

Judges: They keep s_____ Israel

1 & 2 Samuel

D_____ : The great saviour king

Promise
3
focus

1 & 2 Kings

Solomon The wise king

The 12 tribes of Israel D_____ into two
- the northern tribes are called Israel!
- the southern are Judah (& Benjamin)

Isaiah

The Northern tribes (Israel) are no more
- dispersed among the nations by A_____

Jeremiah

The Southern tribes (Judah)
are taken to B_____
in 2 different groups

Ezekiel

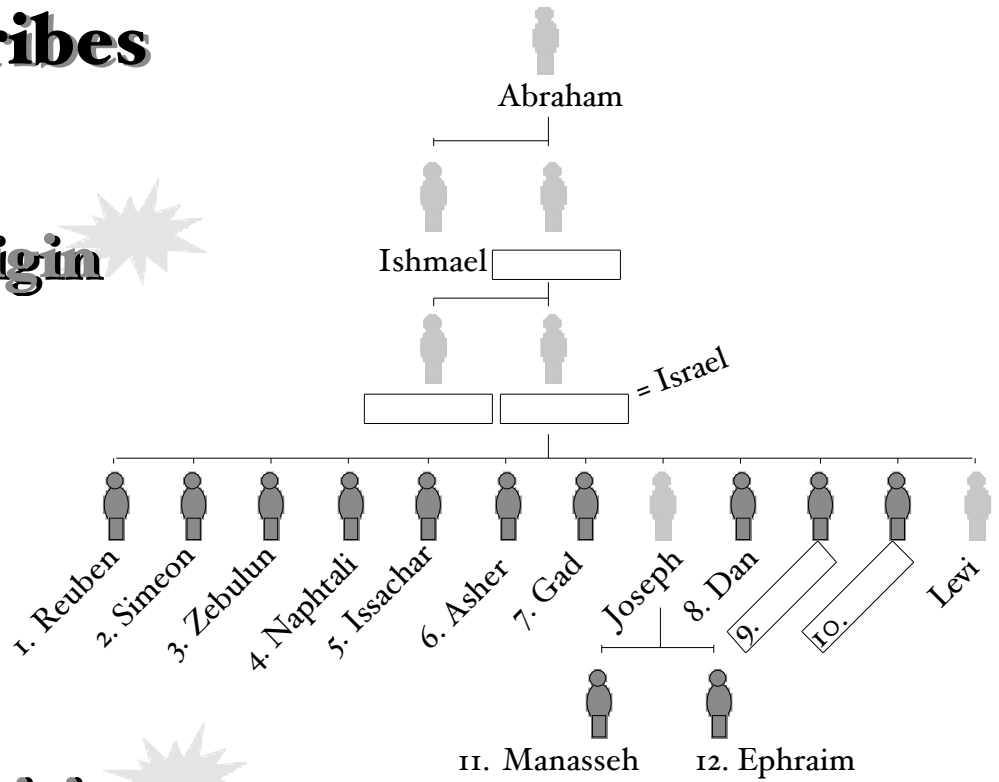
The Southern tribes (Judah)
return to the land under C_____ of Persia

Ezra

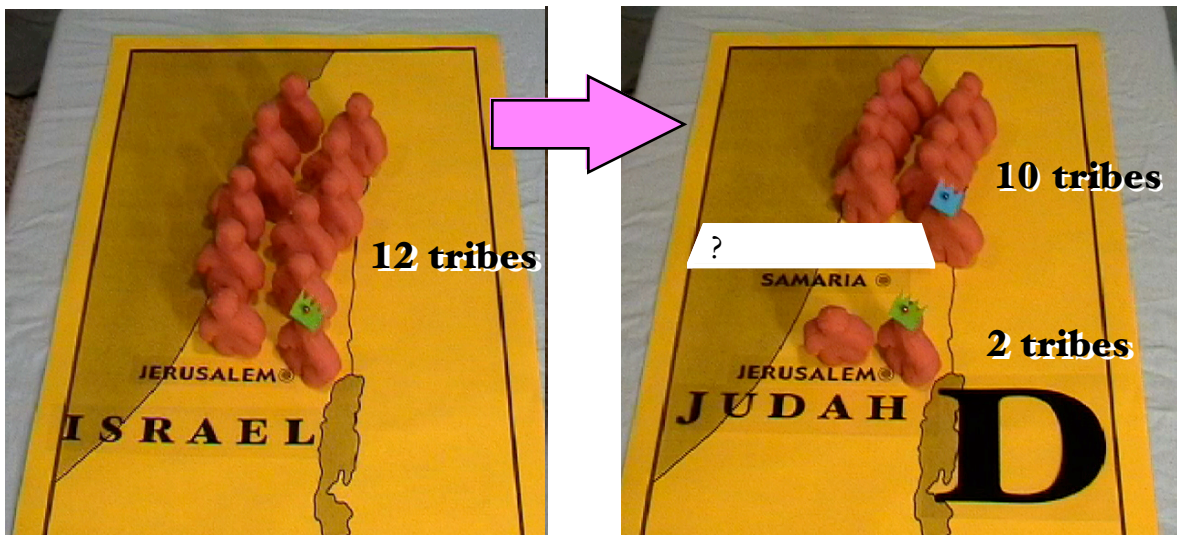
Nehemiah

The 12 Tribes

1. Their Origin



2. Their Division



3. Their Downfall and their Prophets



Micah 1a

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1 The LORD gave these messages to Micah of Moresheth during the years when Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah. The messages concerned both Samaria and Jerusalem, and they came to Micah in the form of visions.

2 Attention! Let all the people of the world listen! The Sovereign LORD has made accusations against you; the Lord speaks from his holy Temple.

3 Look! The LORD is coming! He leaves his throne in heaven and comes to earth, walking on the high places. 4 They melt beneath his feet and flow into the valleys like wax in a fire, like water pouring down a hill.

5 And why is this happening? Because of the sins and rebellion of Jacob and Israel. Who is to blame for Israel's rebellion? Samaria, its capital city! Where is the center of idolatry, [her high places] in Judah? In Jerusalem, its capital!

6 "So I, the LORD, will make the city of Samaria a heap of rubble. Her streets will be plowed up for planting vineyards. I will roll the stones of her walls down into the valley below, exposing all her foundations. 7 All her carved images will be smashed to pieces. All her sacred treasures will be burned up. These things were bought with the money earned by her prostitution, and they will now be carried away to pay prostitutes elsewhere."

8 Because of all this, I will mourn and lament. I will walk around naked and barefoot in sorrow and shame. I will howl like a jackal and wail like an ostrich. 9 For my people's wound is far too deep to heal. It has reached into Judah, even to the gates of Jerusalem.

10 Don't tell this in the city of Gath; don't weep at all. You people in Beth-leaphrah, roll in the dust to show your anguish and despair. 11 You people of Shaphir, go as captives into exile--naked and ashamed. The people of Zaanan dare not come outside their walls. The people of Beth-ezel mourn because the very foundations of their city have been swept away. 12 The people of Maroth anxiously wait for relief, but only bitterness awaits them as the LORD's judgment reaches even to the gates of Jerusalem.

13 Quick! Use your swiftest chariots and flee, you people of Lachish. You were the first city in Judah to follow Israel in the sin of idol worship, and so you led Jerusalem into sin. 14 Send a farewell gift to Moresheth-gath; there is no hope of saving it. The town of Aczib has deceived the kings of Israel, for it promised help it could not give. 15 You people of Mareshah, I will bring a conqueror to capture your town. And the leaders of Israel will go to Adullam.

16 Weep, you people of Judah! Shave your heads in sorrow, for the children you love will be snatched away, and you will never see them again. Make yourselves as bald as an eagle, for your little ones will be exiled to distant lands.

Notes:

- 1.1 *Moresheth*: A town in southern Judah not far from Gath. In verse 14 it is called Moresheth-Gath.
- 1.10 *Beth-Leaphrah*: is unknown, but in Hebrew it sounds like "House of Dust."

Mentioned only in this one place in the whole Old Testament:

- 1.11 *Shaphir*: in Hebrew "Shaphir" means "beautiful."
- 1.11 *Bethzezel*: in Hebrew "Bethzezel" means "house next door."
- 1.11 *Zaanan*: in Hebrew "Zaanan" means "one who goes out."
- 1.12 *Maroth*: in Hebrew "Maroth" means "bitter."

1.13 *Lachish*: The chief city of southwest Judah, about thirty miles from Jerusalem.

1.14 *Moresheth*: Hebrew "Moresheth-Gath"; the home of Micah (see verse 1).

1.14 *Achzib*: Meaning "lie" or "deception" was near Adullam Cave (verse 15), where David hid from Saul.

1.15 *Mareshah*: Sounds something like the Hebrew word for "conqueror" and was only a few miles northeast of Lachish.

1.15 *Adullam Cave*: See the note at 1.14.

1. Read Micah 1:1-2.

- i. Which kings were around then?
- ii. Which nations are specifically in view?
- iii. Who needs to hear the message?

2. Read Micah 1:3-5.

Use those verses and the Map ('Hot Spot Then and Now!') to put these cities in the table:

> Babylon, Nineveh, Samaria, Jerusalem, Damascus

Nation		Capital City
eg. <i>Iraq</i>	-	<i>Baghdad (not ancient but there today)</i>
Judah	-	_____
Israel	-	_____
Syria/Aram	-	_____
Babylonia	-	_____
Assyria	-	_____

3. The Lord speaks in verses 6-7. Read verses 6-7. What will God do to who? Why will he do it?

4. Micah speaks in verses 8 to 16 (the rest of the chapter). Since he is God's spokesperson, as a prophet, God speaks through him: see how verse 15 switches back to God ('I').

What else is said about the two kingdoms (Judah & Israel) and their capitals (Jerusalem & Samaria)?

5. The place names are a bit overwhelming for us. Let's see **why** some are chosen in verse 10:

- Verse 10 mentions 'Gath': Goliath came from Gath. He fought king David.
Which county was Goliath from? Why not tell it in Gath?
- Read the notes under the passage for verse 10.
The following sentences say much the same thing. What's better about the first one:
"Brisbane will become a fry pan and the Sunshine Coast Scorched Toast!"
Or "God will judge Queensland!"

6. How should 'all the people of the world' (v2) respond to hearing of the fate of Israel & Judah?

Map 1 • Hot Spot Then and Now!



Modern cities, countries and boundaries are fainter than the ancient ones in black.

Micah 1b

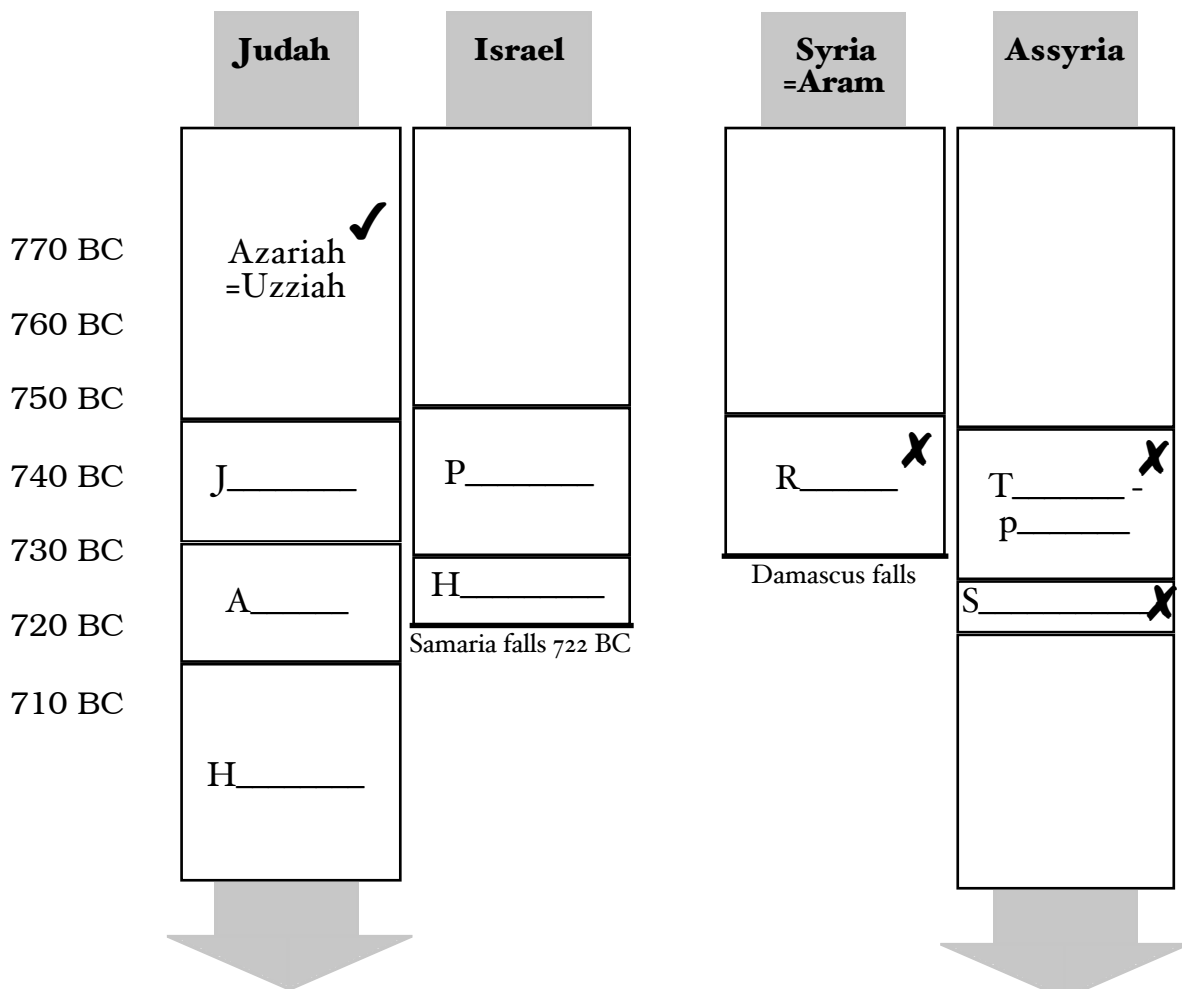
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1. Micah wrote in the time of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (Micah 1:1). We are going to investigate how these blokes fit into world history: What were God and his people doing at that time? Read the Bible passages next to each Map on the next page ('Kingdoms in Conflict'). As you read ...

- i. Represent the conflict in the Bible passage on the maps that follow on the next page:
Circle countries that band together. Draw big arrows to mark an attack.
- ii. Fill in the names of kings in the blanks on 'The Reign of Kings' diagram directly below:
Place a ✓ for goodies and an ✗ for badies.

The Reign of Kings

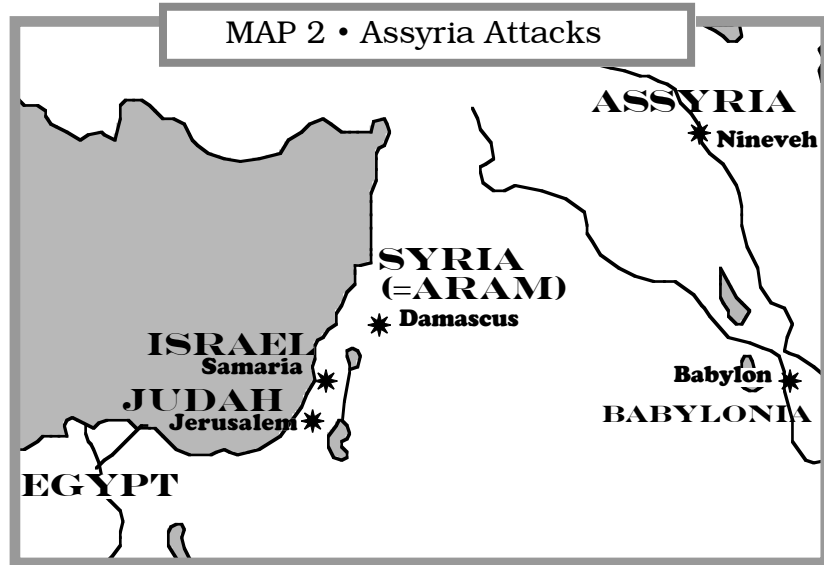


Kingdoms In Conflict

2 Kings 15: 27-30
2 Kings 15: 32-35

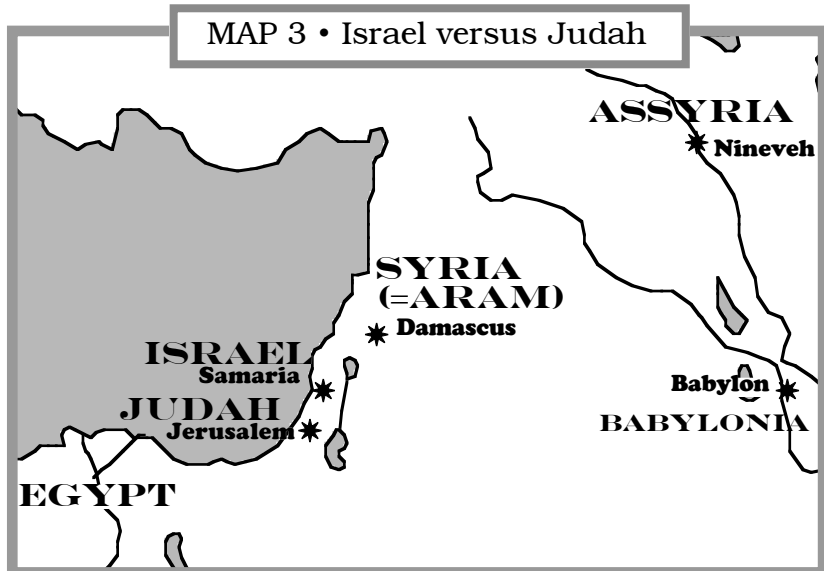
Hints:

- Galilee is beside a sea (see Map 1). Some famous bloke hung around there.
- Who was Naphtali? (see family tree).



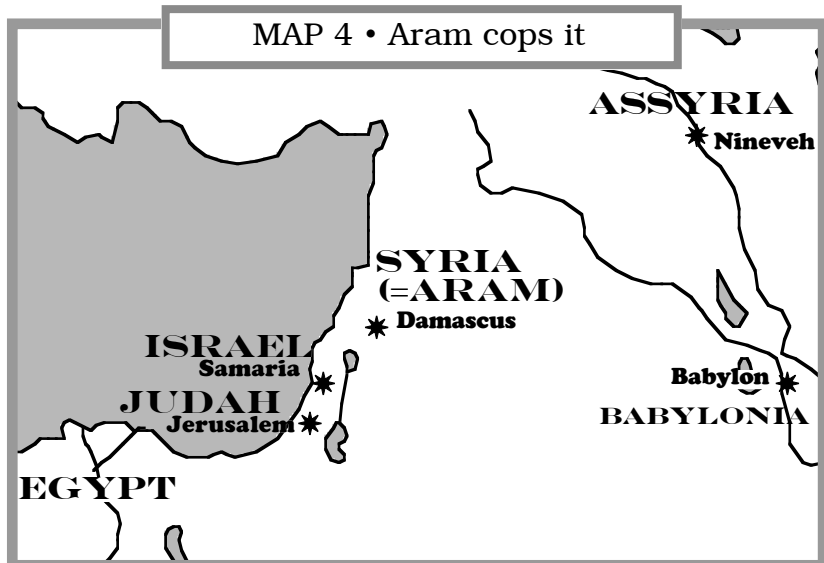
2 Kings 16:1-5

Where did Israel get help from?



2 Kings 16: 7-9

Where does Judah get help from?



2 Kings 17: 1--8, 24

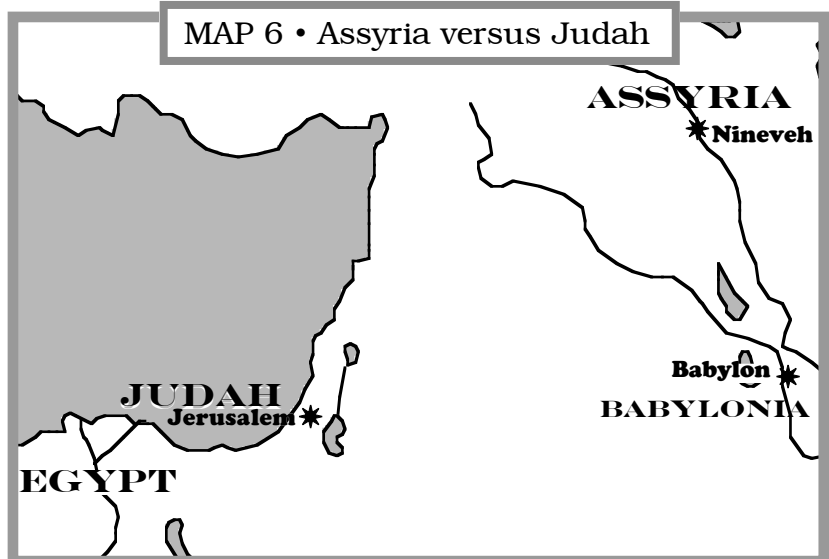
Why did Israel get removed from the land?



2 Kings 18: 1-3, 13-14
2 Kings 19: 5-7
2 Kings 19: 14-19
2 Kings 19: 35-37

Why did Assyria not take Jerusalem & Hezekiah?

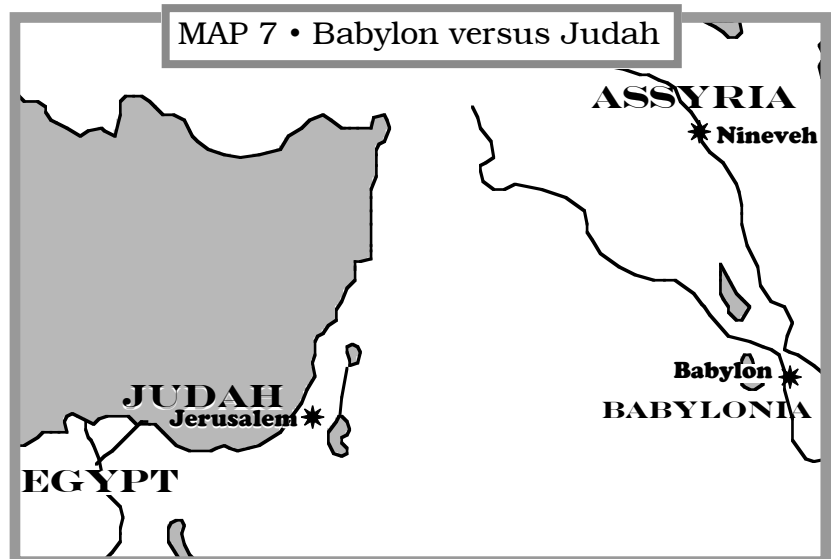
Which Isaiah do you think it was?



2 Kings 20: 12--19
2 Kings 24: 13-14, 8-11

What happened to the people of Judah?

What do you think the book of Isaiah is about?



2. From Micah, looking back to Abraham and forward to us:

i. What are the three promises to Abraham? (Gen 26:3-4)

ii. How are they looking in Micah 1 and why?

iii. When did they look the best in the OT?

3. Micah makes it appear that the promises are blown up - destroyed!

The failure of the leaders, kings, priests and prophets lead the people into sin.

However Micah & other good prophets declare the promises are blown up - expanded!

The promise of 'the Christ' is given. He will be THE leader, king, priest and prophet.

What will Micah have to say about the 'Christ' (King) and blessing the nations?

Micah 4:1-2

Micah 5:1-5

4. Who was the book of Micah ultimately written for and how should those readers respond?

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. ¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. (*1 Peter 1:10-14*)

Micah 2-3

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2:1 How terrible it will be for you who lie awake at night, thinking up evil plans. You rise at dawn and hurry to carry out any of the wicked schemes you have power to accomplish. 2 When you want a certain piece of land, you find a way to seize it. When you want someone's house, you take it by fraud and violence. No one's family or inheritance is safe with you around!

3 But this is what the LORD says: "I will reward your evil with evil; you won't be able to escape! After I am through with you, none of you will ever again walk proudly in the streets."

4 In that day your enemies will make fun of you by singing this song of despair about your experience:

"We are finished, completely ruined!
God has confiscated our land, taking it from us.
He has given our fields to those who betrayed us!"

5 Others will set your boundaries then, and the LORD's people will have no say in how the land is divided.

6 "Don't say such things," the people say. "Don't prophesy like that. Such disasters will never come our way!"

7 Should you talk that way, O house of Jacob? Will the LORD have patience with such behaviour? If you would do what is right, you would find my words to be good. 8 Yet to this very hour my people rise against me! You steal the shirts right off the backs of those who trusted you, making them as ragged as men who have just come home from battle. 9 You have evicted women from their homes and stripped their children of all their God-given rights. 10 Up! Begone! This is no longer your land and home, for you have filled it with sin and ruined it completely.

11 Suppose a prophet full of lies were to say to you, "I'll preach to you the joys of wine and drink!" That's just the kind of prophet you would like!

12 "Someday, O Israel, I will gather a remnant (the few of you who are left).² I will bring you together again like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture. Yes, your land will again be filled with noisy crowds! 13 Your leader will break out and lead you out of exile. He will bring you through the gates of your cities of captivity, back to your own land. Your king will lead you; the LORD himself will guide you."

3:1 Listen, you leaders of Israel! You are supposed to know right from wrong, 2 but you are the very ones who hate good and love evil. You skin my people alive and tear the flesh off their bones. 3 You eat my people's flesh, cut away their skin, and break their bones. You chop them up like meat for the cooking pot. 4 Then you beg the LORD for help in times of trouble! Do you really expect him to listen? After all the evil you have done, he won't even look at you!

5 This is what the LORD says to you false prophets: "You are leading my people astray! You promise peace for those who give you food, but you declare war on anyone who refuses to pay you. 6 Now the night will close around you, cutting off all your visions. Darkness will cover you, making it impossible for you to predict the future. The sun will set for you prophets, and your day will come to an end. 7 Then you seers will cover your faces in shame, and you diviners will be disgraced. And you will admit that your messages were not from God."

8 But as for me, I am filled with power and the Spirit of the LORD. I am filled with justice and might, fearlessly pointing out Israel's sin and rebellion. 9 Listen to me, you leaders of Israel! You hate justice and twist all that is right. 10 You are building Jerusalem on a foundation of murder and corruption. 11 You rulers govern for the bribes you can get; you priests teach God's laws only for a price; you prophets won't prophesy unless you are paid. Yet all of you claim you are depending on the LORD. "No harm can come to us," you say, "for the LORD is here among us."

12 So because of you, Mount Zion will be plowed like an open field; Jerusalem will be reduced to rubble! A great forest will grow on the hilltop, where the Temple now stands.

Footnote:

1. 2:4 *Or to those who took us captive.*

2. 2:12 *NIV and ESV has 'remnant' but NLT has 'the few of you who are left'*

Its as easy as ABC. Use the first verse of these books to see which prophets wrote at the same time:
Isaiah, Zechariah, Amos, Haggai, Micah, Ezekiel (use VI-3), Hosea

A
During kings
Uzziah, Jotham Ahaz or Hezekiah
(before Assyria)

B
During king
Jehoiachin
(while exiled in Babylon)

C
During king
Darius the Medo-Persian
(after Cyrus the Persian)

From the last study:

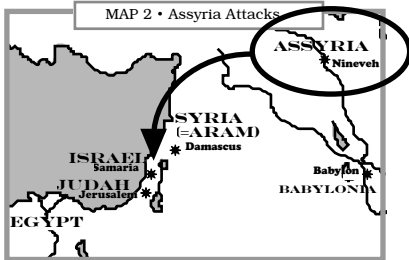
Kings During Micah's Time

- ✗ Did Evil in the eyes of the Lord
- ✓ Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord

	Judah	Israel	Syria =Aram	Assyria
770 BC	Azariah ✓ =Uzziah			
760 BC				
750 BC				
740 BC	Jotham ✗	Pekah ✗	Rezin ✗	Tiglath - Pileser ✗
730 BC	Ahaz ✗	Hoshea ✗	Damascus falls	Shalmaneser ✗
720 BC		Samaria falls 722 BC		
710 BC	Hezekiah ✓			Sennacherib ✗

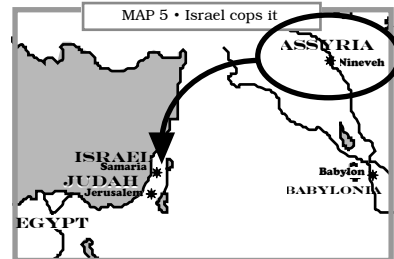
2 Kings 15: 27-30
2 Kings 15: 32-35

- Hints:
- Galilee is beside a sea (see Map 1). Some famous bloke hung around there.
 - Who was Naphtali? (see family tree).



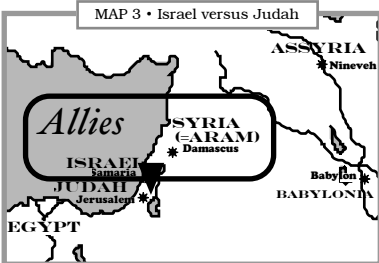
2 Kings 17: 1--8, 24

Why did Israel get removed from the land?



2 Kings 16:1-5

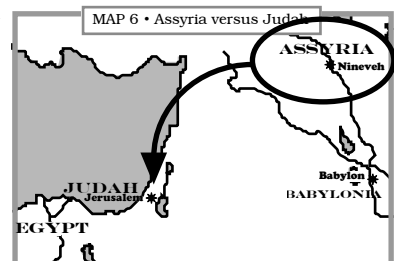
Where did Israel get help from?



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2 Kings 19: 14-19
2 Kings 19: 35-37

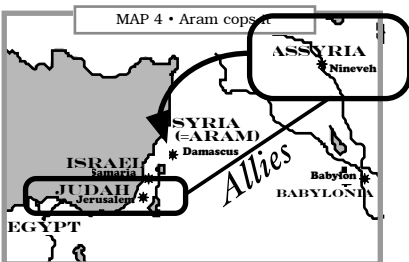
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Which Isaiah do you think it was?



2 Kings 16: 7-9

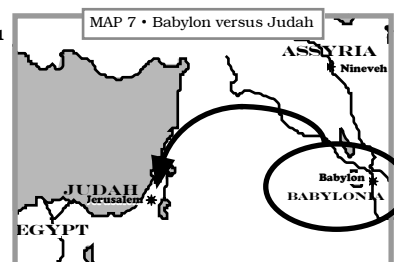
Where does Judah get help from?



2 Kings 20: 12--19
2 Kings 24: 13-14, 8-11

What happened to the people of Judah?

What do you think the book of Isaiah is about?



Questions on Chapters 2-3

• Imagine a Bible study that looked at the failure of OT leaders. The study jumped straight from their failure to urging leaders today to do a better Job. What would be wrong with a study like that?

1. What is God's judgment on the Israelites?

2. What do we learn about the leaders and prophets?

3. Ezekiel later spoke about God's judgment on the leaders/shepherds of Israel:
 - i. What did the leaders do wrong? *Ezekiel 34:2*

 - ii. What will be the solution to the leaders' failure? *Ezekiel 34:11-12,15*

 - iii. Hold on, who is going to be the shepherd? *Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:22,24*

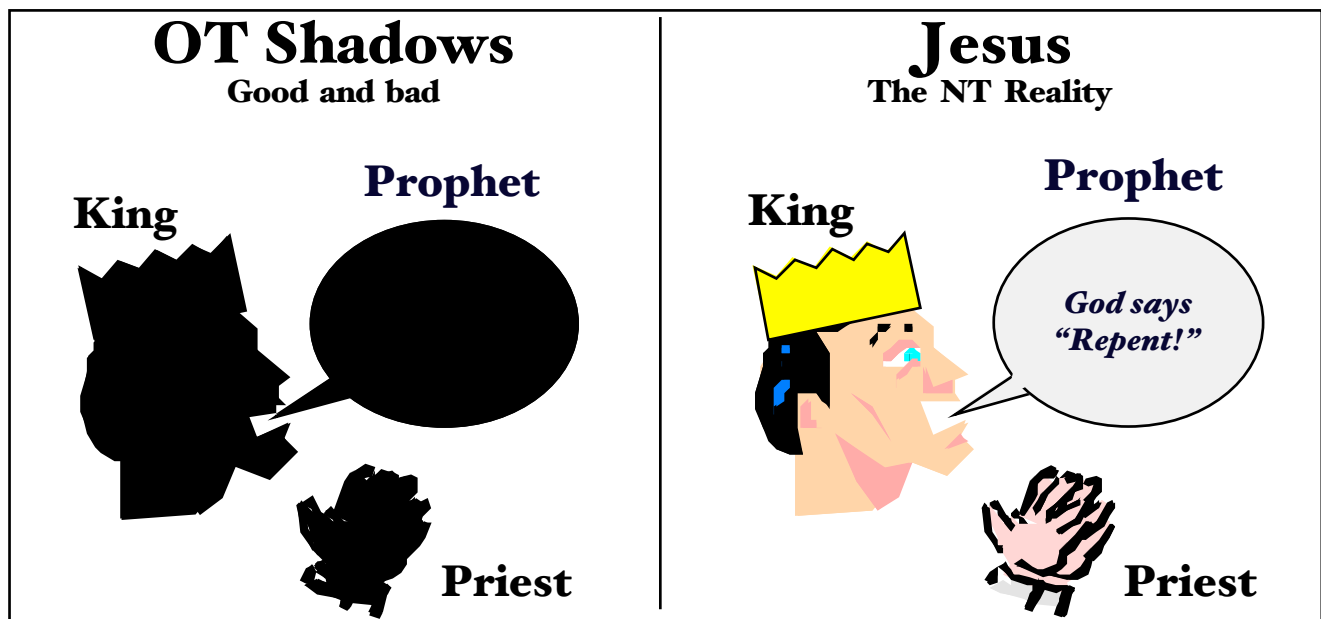
 - iv. Would an Israelite living after king David expect David himself to literally be king?

4. What lacking in the leadership of Israel in Micah's time?

5. What is the glimmer of hope in Micah 2:12-13?

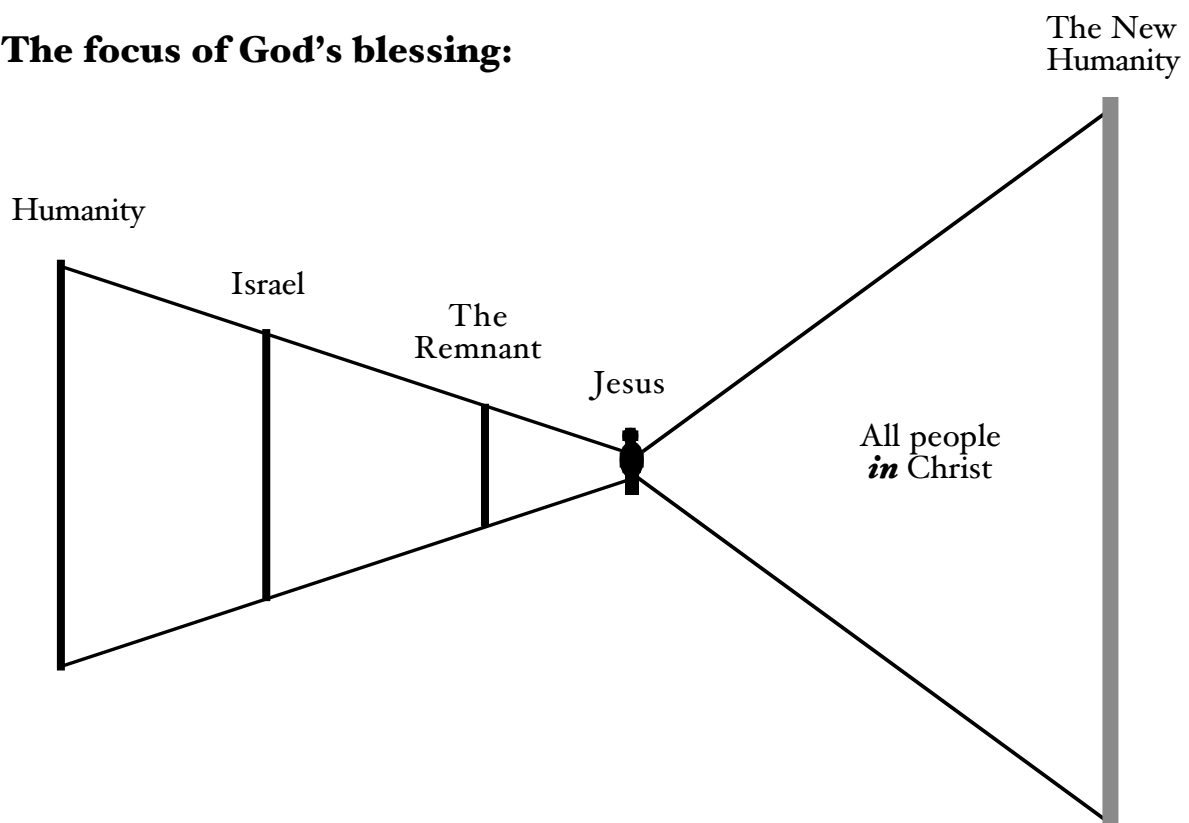
6. Who will be the king according to Micah 2? *compare Micah 2:13 to Micah 5:2 and Ezekiel (Q3iii).*

7. Micah 3:11 mentions prophets, priests & rulers/leaders. Apart from Micah, they are bad shadows:



8. Why does God promise to save a remnant (ie. 'left overs') of Israel in 2:12-13?

The focus of God's blessing:



9. How should we respond to this mercy God has shown us, according to 1 Peter 2:9-10?

Micah 4

Join us on the trip



Recapping last week:

Last week we saw that Judah's leaders (Kings, Prophets, Priests) were completely selfish, and not shepherding the people of God as they had been commanded to. There were also rich landowners ripping off the people to make themselves a profit. Micah's prophecy for them was destruction and exile. However in the prophecy of doom, there was also a glimmer of hope There would come a time when God himself would shepherd his people and be their King.

What was the final prophecy for the future in chapter 3 ?

This week: read chapter 4 below:

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.

2 Many nations will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD ,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

4 Every man will sit under his own vine
and under his own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

5 All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods;
we will walk in the name of the LORD
our God for ever and ever.

6 "In that day," declares the LORD ,

"I will gather the lame;
I will assemble the exiles
and those I have brought to grief.

7 I will make the lame a remnant,
those driven away a strong nation.
The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion
from that day and forever.

8 As for you, O watchtower of the flock,

O stronghold¹ of the Daughter of Zion,
 the former dominion will be restored to you;
 kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem."

9 Why do you now cry aloud-
 have you no king?
 Has your counselor perished,
 that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?

10 Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion,
 like a woman in labor,
 for now you must leave the city
 to camp in the open field.
 You will go to Babylon;
 there you will be rescued.
 There the LORD will redeem you
 out of the hand of your enemies.

11 But now many nations
 are gathered against you.
 They say, "Let her be defiled,
 let our eyes gloat over Zion!"

12 But they do not know
 the thoughts of the LORD ;
 they do not understand his plan,
 he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

13 "Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion,
 for I will give you horns of iron;
 I will give you hoofs of bronze
 and you will break to pieces many nations."

You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD ,
 their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

Footnotes

1. 4:8 Or bill

Fill in the following table:

Verses	Promises for Micah's time	Promises for the future
1-5		
6-10		
10b-13		

Hints: Zion= Jerusalem=Daughter of Jerusalem

= A noteworthy place because its the place of THE TEMPLE (God's House / Dwelling on earth).

1. What are verses 1-2 a picture of?

2. How is it that people of all nations will be able to be taught God's ways etc?
(Gentiles weren't allowed in the temple). Rom 1:16, and 1 Peter 3:18

3. How will the 'last days' under God's rule be different to when earthly leaders were ruling in chapters 2-3?

4. What is the picture in vs 6-8? See also 2:12-13

5. How does this remind you of Jesus' ministry while He was on earth? see Matt 9:10-12

6. Who had God chosen to be 'a strong nation' / His people?
 -according to Micah?
 -according to 1 Cor 1:27-28?

Can you see how Micah's prophecy is being fulfilled in us?

7. From Rev 21:2 and Rev 22:3-5, what are the similarities to Micah 4:7,8?

Where should we look for a new Jerusalem; across to the middle east or up to heaven? see Heb 11:13-16

8. What is the imminent future for Judah?
 - vs 10:
 - vs 11:

9. What are the glimmers of hope for Judah?
 - vs 10b:
 - vs 12-13:

What is the common thread in these glimmers of hope?

Answer the next two questions in terms of the 3 promises God gave Abram:

10. What elements of the prophecy have begun to be fulfilled that we can see today? from vs 1-5, and vs 6-8. Don't forget 2 Cor 1:20 ...

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.
And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

a nation / people:

land/place:

blessing to all nations:

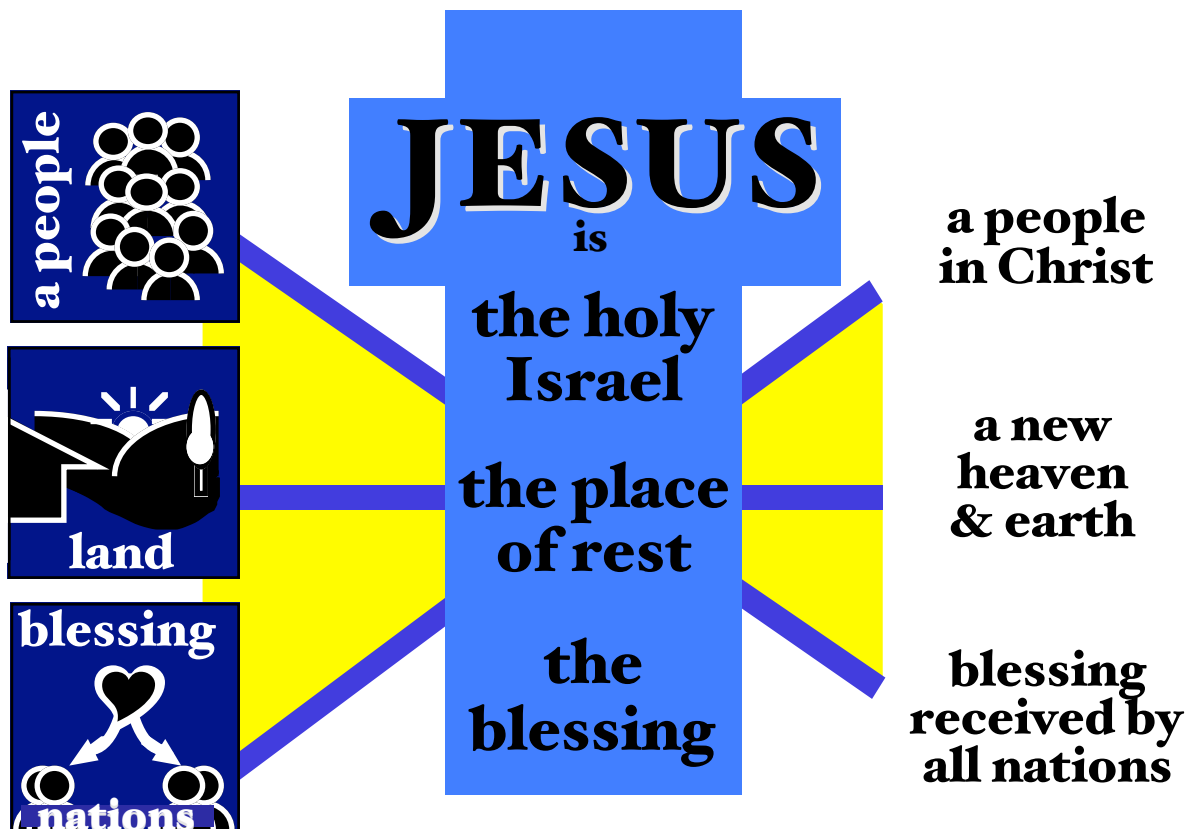
11. What bits do we still have to look forward to?

a nation / people:

land/place:

blessing to all nations:

The Promises, Jesus & Us



Micah 5

Join us on the trip



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.

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."

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

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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

10 "In that day," declares the LORD,

"I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots.

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

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

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.

14 I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities.

15 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."

Questions on Micah 5

1. Split into 3 groups; each group take the one of the following passages. (20 mins)

Group -1: Micah 5:1-5a

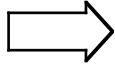
Group -2: Micah 5:5b-9

Group -3: Micah 5:10-15

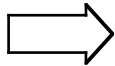
Give a title for the passage

What/Who does this passage talk about?

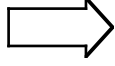
Micah 5:1-5a



Micah 5:5b-9



Micah 5:10-15



2. What was the situation in Israel in Micah 5 (esp v1)? Is it Map 6 OR Map 7 in your booklets (p9)?

Read the verses beside Map 6: 2 Kings 18:1-3,13-14 19:5-7 19:14-19 19:35-37

Read the verses beside Map 7: 2 Kings 20:12-19 24:13-14, 8-11

3. What do verses 2-5 tell about the ruler over Israel ?

Refer to: John 10: 11, 14-15. Isaiah 9:6(Prince of peace)

4. How is vs-2 fulfilled in the New Testament?

See Luke 2:11 & 1 Samuel 16: 1, 11-13, Matthew 2:6

5. Based on verses 5-9, what will the Messiah do to His enemies?

6. Based on verses 10-14, what will the Messiah do to His people, Israel?

What picture do each of the following present?

Horses & Chariots

see Psalm 33:17

Carved Images/Sacred stones

Strongholds, Cities of the Land

Asherah Poles

7. Based on verse 15, what will the Messiah do to disobedient nations?

8. In whom/what do we put our trust in??

(Money, House, Job.....)

Micah 6

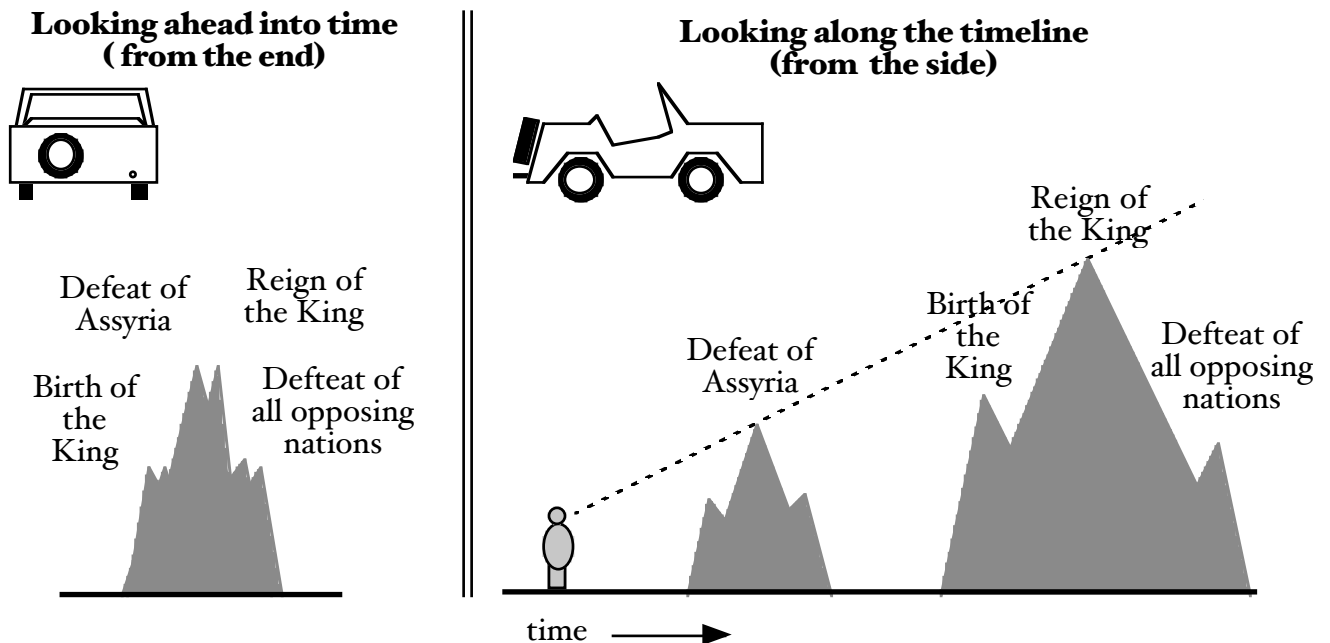
Join us on the trip



Recapping last week:

In chapter 5, we read about the Messiah (Anointed King who was to come). He was to be born in Bethlehem and his origin was to be from ancient times. He was to shepherd the flock, bring peace and his greatness was to reach the ends of the earth. However his victory was described in terms of the immediate historical circumstances of the time. That is, release from the Assyrian attack. Yet, Assyria were not around when Jesus first came and certainly not for his second coming.

Prophecy sometimes looks ahead to the immediate circumstances and also to the future kingdom. From where the prophet is standing it all lies in the future.



Micah 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.

2 Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.

3 "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.

4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counselled
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember [your journey] from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."

6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

9 Listen! The LORD is calling to the city--and to fear your name is Wisdom--

-"heed the rod and the One who appointed it.

10 Am I still to forget, O wicked house,

your ill-gotten treasures and the short ephah, which is accursed?

11 Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights?

12 Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.

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

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.

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.

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."

Questions on Micah 6

1. Before reading the whole chapter, divide into four groups. Only read your section and write out a heading in the appropriate spot for your passage from the options below the table.

Passage

Section 1 • 6:1-2

Section 2 • 6:3-5

Section 3 • 6:6-8

Section 4 • 6:9-16

Title (from the list below)

Options for a heading: (Note: two headings will not be used)

God had saved, lead and kept Israel safe.

God is sending the Messiah to save Israel.

God has a charge against his people.

God will save those who call on his name.

God is judging because of Israel's dishonesty and violence.

God wants people walking with him not ritual sacrifices.

All get back together as a whole group. Read through the whole chapter as a group. Pause at the end of each section and let others have a quick guess as to what the heading is before the group that examined that section say the answer.

Quick Flashback on details of Micah 6:4 ...

Who were Moses, Aaron and Miriam?

Look up these passages to see the kind of leading (going before) they gave:

Exodus 6:28 - 7:7

Exodus 15:19-21

Numbers 12:1-16

Quick Flashback on details Micah 6:16 ...

Who were Omri and Ahab?

Look up:

1 Kings 12:26-31 • (Note: Jeroboam was the first king of the
10 Northern tribes, after the split).

1 Kings 16:23-28

1 Kings 16:29-33

2. Had Israel learnt the lesson Micah taught by the time of Jesus?

Compare Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23

3. Who has achieved *for us* what the LORD requires of us?

Read Hebrews 10:5-10

4. In light of 6:6-8,

Can *we* deal with *our* sin and transgressions (stepping over God's mark)?

Instead, what are we to do, especially as Christians?

Micah 7

Join us on the trip



Micah 7 (before reading this together look at the next page).

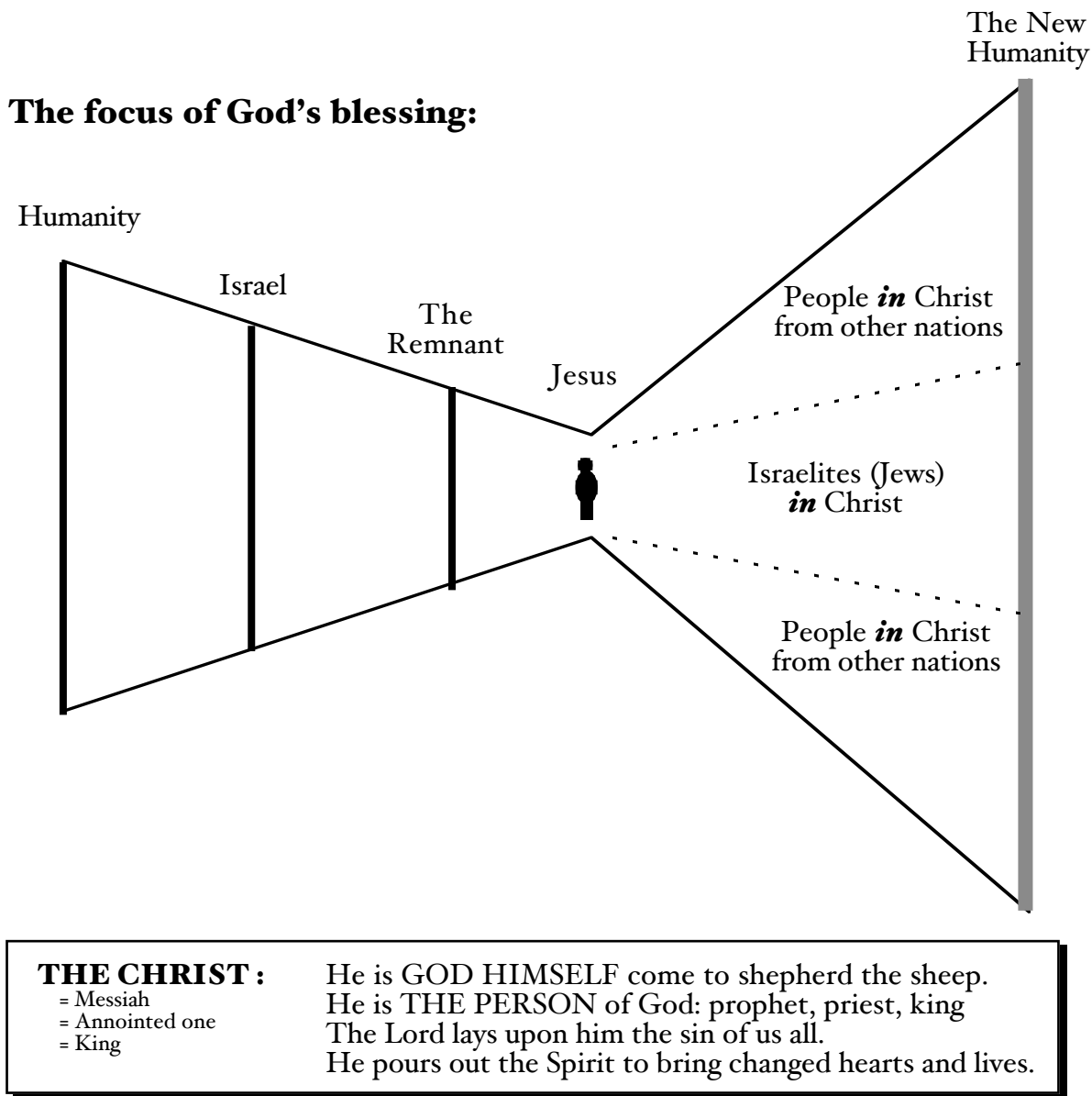
- 1 What misery is mine!
I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard;
there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave.
- 2 The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains.
All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net.
- 3 Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes,
the powerful dictate what they desire--they all conspire together.
- 4 The best of them is like a brier, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.
The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you.
Now is the time of their confusion.
- 5 Do not trust a neighbour; put no confidence in a friend.
Even with her who lies in your embrace be careful of your words.
- 6 For a son dishonours his father, a daughter rises up against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law --
a man's enemies are the members of his own household.
- 7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.
- 8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise.
Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.
- 9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD's wrath,
until he pleads my case and establishes my right.
He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.
- 10 Then my enemy will see it and will be covered with shame, she who said to me,
"Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will see her downfall;
even now she will be trampled underfoot like mire in the streets.
- 11 The day for building your walls will come, the day for extending your boundaries.
- 12 In that day people will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,
even from Egypt to the Euphrates and from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.
- 13 The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as the result of their deeds.
- 14 Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance,
which lives by itself in a forest, in fertile pasture-lands.
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days long ago.
- 15 "As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show them my wonders."
16 Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their power.
They will lay their hands on their mouths and their ears will become deaf.
- 17 They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground.
They will come trembling out of their dens;
they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you.
- 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 for ever but delight to show mercy.
- 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.
- 20 You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham,
as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

3. From verses 14-20, what is Micah asking and expecting God to do?

What within that expectation is part of the imagery from Micah's day?

What within that expectation do *we* particularly see fulfilled in Christ?

4. Use Romans 11:1-6, 11-12, 17-21 to answer: 'Are you the remnant of his inheritance (v18)?'



5. Look back over our studies in Micah.

What do you understand and appreciate better?

What makes you praise God (*especially from the pictures on pages 14 & 18*)?