

## **The Superscription of the Book of Micah**

### **Micah 1:1**

November 15, 2023

*When one considers the office of prophet what comes to mind?*

If we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ we must study all of the word of Christ which includes the prophets.

And as we begin to study Micah this verse provides the building blocks for our introduction to this book because in this verse, we can answer the important questions of - Who? What? When? and Where?

#### **I. The Divine Content of the Book of Micah (1a)**

From the opening words of the book we are told of the divine content of the book of Micah.

The opening of the book in this way makes certain that the reader knows that the words found in this book are not words from mere men, this is the word and what will be read after this verse are the words of the LORD – of Yahweh.

Note the indication in this first part of the verse that the word of the LORD came. The LORD took the initiative to bring the word to the human author of the book and to bring the word into the historical context of the book.

#### **II. The Human Author of the Book of Micah (1b)**

The word of the Lord came to Micah who is the author of the book.

There were several Micahs in the OT and we're told that this Micah was of Moresheth or Moresheth-Gath (1:14).

Note that Micah's background isn't shared nor is his profession. The only details shared about the man to whom the word of the LORD came is his name and where he lives.

### III. The Historical Context of the Book of Micah (1c)

*What is significant about the kings and the cities mentioned in Micah 1:1?*

From the kingships mentioned the maximum time period for the book of Micah would have been 750 BC to 686 BC, covering approximately 64 years and the minimum time period for the book would have been 735 BC-715 BC, covering 20 years. Many place Micah's ministry somewhere in between covering approximately 35 years between 735 and 700BC.

Note that during the maximum period the prophets Hosea (750-715 BC) and Isaiah (740-700 BC) served as prophets in the northern and southern kingdoms respectively.

*If you read through Micah what are major themes of Micah?*

A useful outline of the book comes from the New American Commentary (33) by Kenneth Barker and Waylon Bailey and indicates:

1. First Cycle (1:2-2:13)
  - a. Judgment (1:2-2:11)
  - b. Salvation (2:12-13)
2. Second Cycle (3-5)
  - a. Judgment (3)
  - b. Salvation (4-5)
3. Third Cycle (6:1-7:20)
  - a. Judgment (6:1-7:7)
  - b. Salvation (7:8-20)

Each of the three cycles begins with the word "Hear" - 2:1, 3:1 and 6:1.

And from there the LORD through Micah bears witness against (1:2) and issues His indictment (6:2) against the sins of Israel and Judah, promises judgment for their sin but also promises salvation and restoration, the culmination of which is found in Micah 7:18-20.

Because these themes of judgment are connected so quickly with themes of salvation there have been many scholars who have contended that while chapters 1-3 were authored by Micah, chapters 4-7 likely were not. But these scholars that seek to remove Micah as the author of chapters 4-7 have sought to do so by seeking to undermine the “validity of supernatural revelation, divine inspiration, miracles, and predictive prophecy (including long-range predictions)” (Barker, 29).

Scripture itself speaks to the validity of what Micah spoke – Mic. 3:12 (Jer. 26:1-24), Mic. 5:2 (Matt. 2:1-6, Jo. 7:42), Mic. 7:6 (Matt. 10:35-36).

*In what ways are God’s grace shown in this opening verse of Micah?*

### **Application**

- We should boldly declare God’s promise of coming judgment and His salvation as both are seen in the gospel. 2 Cor. 5:11-21
- We should accept that God’s revelation of Himself in His Word is sufficient. Mic. 6:8.



<https://www.generationword.com/verse/micah.html>