

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA—MALACHI
MICAH: ADVOCATE FOR THE POOR
A SURVEY OF MICAH



The Heart of the Matter

It is doubtful that the poor peasants of Judah ever had a stronger champion than their countryman Micah, the powerful preacher. Though not as intellectually gifted as his contemporary, Isaiah, nor as popular as Hosea, his peer to the north, Micah nevertheless defended the downtrodden with vigilant zeal. He cared for his people and warned them of certain punishment if they refused to repent. For this reason, we should not minimize Micah's importance or regard him as a mere shadow of the great Isaiah. No way! With a simple—yet courageous—style, Micah shouted out God's strong reproofs to the rich, offered sympathy to the poor, predicted judgment upon all the ungodly, and told the truth—with the unflinching severity of the prophet Amos plus the deep compassion of the prophet Hosea.



Discovering the Way

1. An Understanding of the Man

Micah was from the Judean backcountry, called to minister to the rich and powerful on behalf of the poor and downtrodden, even though Isaiah was already ministering in Jerusalem and Hosea in Samaria.

2. A Survey of His Message

Micah declared doom in chapters 1 and 2, exposed sin in chapters 3–5, and offered hope in chapters 6 and 7.

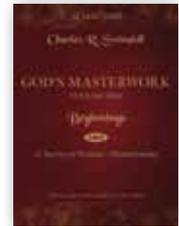


Starting Your Journey

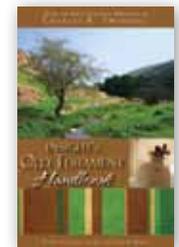
Three lasting lessons emerge from Micah's book. First, a messenger may be unsophisticated, but God's power will give him the clout that's needed. Second, in times of greatest need, a nation is given God's best spokesmen. Third, living a godly life is simple, not complicated.



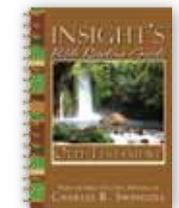
Tools for Digging Deeper



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MICAH

	An Announcement of Judgment <i>Hear, O peoples . . . / Listen, O earth. (1:2)</i> <u>The capitals will be destroyed</u> <u>Reasons for judgment</u> CHAPTERS 1–2	A Contrast of Kingdoms <i>“Hear now, heads of Jacob / And rulers.” (3:1)</i> <u>Human corruption</u> <u>Divine restoration</u> CHAPTERS 3–5	A Case against Sin and a Promise of Restoration Hear now what the LORD is saying. (6:1) <u>God’s indictment</u> <u>Authentic spirituality</u> <u>Judah’s sins</u> <u>Messianic mercy</u> CHAPTERS 6–7
Theme	Micah shows that a true relationship with God is inextricably linked to how we treat one another. Micah contrasts Judah’s sinful kingdom with God’s righteous and just messianic kingdom.		
Key Verse	6:8		
Christ in Micah	Jesus’s birth in Bethlehem is predicted in 5:2; His righteous reign over all the earth is described in 2:12–13; 4:1–8; 5:4–5.		

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