

# Conversation Guide

January 1, 2023

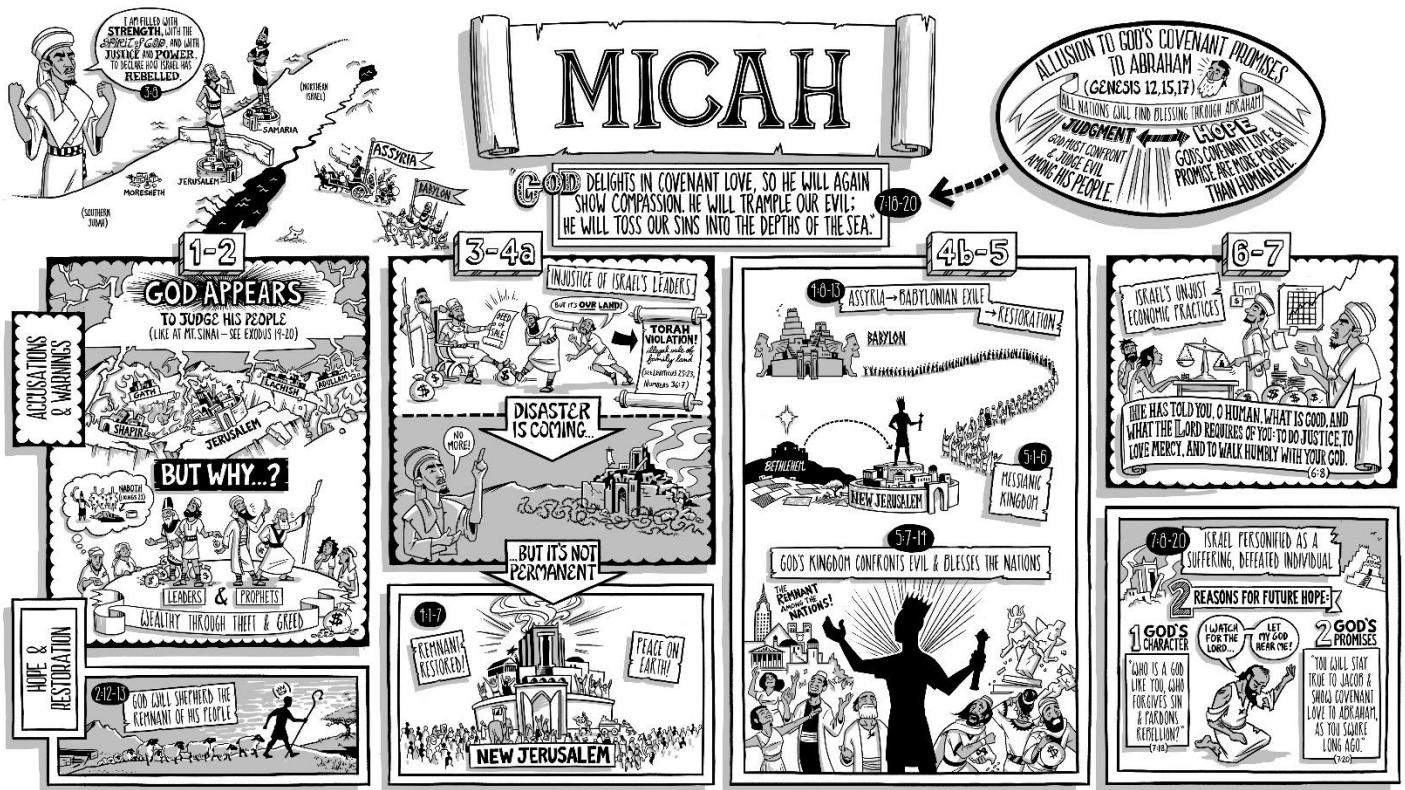
## The Book of Micah

### Introduction Questions

- Looking back at 2022, what would God not be pleased with in our world? ...nation? ...state? ...county? ...church?, ...families? ... marriages?
- As we start a New Year today, what are your hopes in all the same areas?
- Do you know or are you familiar with Micah 6:8?

“Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

- This pivotal verse gave the Israelites, and gives us, a reason to hope as we’ll see in this prophetic book.
- Play the introductory video on RightNow Media called “How to Read Micah” or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/MFEUEcylwLc>



created by the Bible Project

## Read Micah 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord that came to Micah the Moreshite—what he saw regarding Samaria and Jerusalem in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> Listen, all you peoples;  
pay attention, earth and everyone in it!  
The Lord God will be a witness against you,  
the Lord, from his holy temple.

<sup>3</sup> Look, the Lord is leaving his place  
and coming down to trample  
the heights of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt beneath him,  
and the valleys will split apart,  
like wax near a fire,  
like water cascading down a mountainside.

<sup>5</sup> All this will happen because of Jacob's rebellion  
and the sins of the house of Israel.

What is the rebellion of Jacob?

Isn't it Samaria?

And what is the high place of Judah?

Isn't it Jerusalem?

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, I will make Samaria  
a heap of ruins in the countryside,  
a planting area for a vineyard.  
I will roll her stones into the valley  
and expose her foundations.

<sup>7</sup> All her carved images will be smashed to pieces;  
all her wages will be burned in the fire,  
and I will destroy all her idols.  
Since she collected the wages of a prostitute,  
they will be used again for a prostitute.

- Who is God addressing and about which Kings and nations?
- Why has God appeared and bringing judgement on Judah and Israel?

## Read Micah 2:1- 2; 3:1-2, 5, 9-11

<sup>1</sup> Woe to those who dream up wickedness  
and prepare evil plans on their beds!  
At morning light they accomplish it  
because the power is in their hands.

<sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them;  
they also take houses.  
They deprive a man of his home,  
a person of his inheritance.

<sup>1</sup> Then I said, “Now listen, leaders of Jacob,  
you rulers of the house of Israel.

Aren’t you supposed to know what is just?

<sup>2</sup> You hate good and love evil.

<sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord says  
concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who proclaim peace  
when they have food to sink their teeth into  
but declare war against the one  
who puts nothing in their mouths.

<sup>9</sup> Listen to this, leaders of the house of Jacob,  
you rulers of the house of Israel,  
who abhor justice

and pervert everything that is right,

<sup>10</sup> who build Zion with bloodshed  
and Jerusalem with injustice.

<sup>11</sup> Her leaders issue rulings for a bribe,  
her priests teach for payment,  
and her prophets practice divination for silver.

Yet they lean on the Lord, saying,

“Isn’t the Lord among us?

No disaster will overtake us.”

- What are the people guilty of in the part?
- What leaders does God call out and what is His accusations against them?
- What parallels can we see in our own society?

## **Read Micah 4 :1-4**

<sup>1</sup> In the last days  
the mountain of the Lord’s house  
will be established

at the top of the mountains  
and will be raised above the hills.

Peoples will stream to it,

<sup>2</sup> and many nations will come and say,

“Come, let’s go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us about his ways  
so we may walk in his paths.”

For instruction will go out of Zion  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He will settle disputes among many peoples  
and provide arbitration for strong nations  
that are far away.

They will beat their swords into plows  
and their spears into pruning knives.  
Nation will not take up the sword against nation,  
and they will never again train for war.  
<sup>4</sup> But each person will sit under his grapevine  
and under his fig tree  
with no one to frighten him.

## **Read Micah 6:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> What should I bring before the Lord  
when I come to bow before God on high?  
Should I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with year-old calves?  
<sup>7</sup> Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams  
or with ten thousand streams of oil?  
Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the offspring of my body for my own sin?  
  
<sup>8</sup> Mankind, he has told each of you what is good  
and what it is the Lord requires of you:  
to act justly,  
to love faithfulness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

- How does Micah tie together personal walk with true worship of God?
- What is God requiring of us?
- How is God leading us into authentic relationships with Him and others?

## **Read Micah 7:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you,  
forgiving iniquity and passing over rebellion  
for the remnant of his inheritance?  
He does not hold on to his anger forever  
because he delights in faithful love.  
<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us;  
he will vanquish our iniquities.  
You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.  
<sup>20</sup> You will show loyalty to Jacob  
and faithful love to Abraham,  
as you swore to our ancestors  
from days long ago.

- What are the character traits of God that Micah extols?
- What are the two promises that Micah recounts?
- How do the traits and the promises give him hope for the future?

## Application:

- Make a list of the character traits of God that the Bible gives us (do an online Bible like YouVersion and do a search on God's character):

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- Make a list of the promises of God that the Bible gives us (Go to an online Bible like YouVersion and search on God's promises):

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## Next Steps:

- Memorize and meditate on Micah 6:8

"Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you:  
to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God."

- What is making you anxious? What is making you angry? Based on God's character and God's promises, how could you turn them into prayers to pray this week?