

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



Micah

As with each of the prophets who have been given an inspired message from God to share with us, that message overshadows the messenger. That in itself is a model for us, as we seek to live lives that are testimonies to the glory of our Lord. But who is Micah? What kind of man did God choose to be His voice? Across the years, and miles, and even larger cultural divide, what do we have in common with this man?

I see Micah as a bold, but tenderhearted, guy. He mourns over the condition, and the immediate future of his people. He is frustrated with how the leaders have not only led their flock astray, but misused them. He paints a gruesome verbal picture to get across how atrocious it all is. Micah's verbal mastery, and perhaps sense of humor as well, is also evident in his play on words in the very first chapter, a fairly typical style common in the Hebrew texts, but largely lost on us English readers. God's message is timeless, but the communication trends of the day, and the place and personality of the speaker become incorporated into the message. If you were delivering the same message given to Micah today, what would be the same, and what would be different?



"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:7

I think what I appreciate most about Micah is the understanding he communicates about the nature of God. Even through all the dire things to come, he has hope, and that hope is based solely on the character of God. Who is a God like this? One whose love for us cannot be quenched. One who will not treat us like we deserve. One who will toss all of our garbage far beyond our reach into the depths of the sea. One who will let us bear the consequences just long enough to bring us to repentance, and then will raise us up. Who is a God like this? One full of compassion. One who does not stay angry forever, but delights in mercy.

And what does the God like this ask of me? To imitate Him. To be kind and fair, and to cut people some slack. To remember His character, and that He is God, and I am not.

READ:

- Micah

Chronology:

- 742-687 BC
- During the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
- Contemporary with Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos

Micah

Which three kings of Judah reigned during Micah's time, and what do we know about each of them?

- _____
• _____
• _____
• _____

What did Micah warn would become of Samaria? _____

Whose wounds were incurable, and what does that mean? _____

What reason did Judah have to be surprised when Micah went on to say that Judah was just as bad? (2 Samuel 7:16)

In what way would Micah mourn over Jerusalem?

In Matt. 23:37-39, what did Jesus mourn for Jerusalem about?

How did Lachish provide a warning for Jerusalem?

What were the offenses of the leaders as described in Micah 2:1-2?

What does God promise to do for the remnant?

In what way does Micah communicate the severity of what the rulers of Israel and Judah have done?

Who does God hide His face from in 3:4?

Why? _____

If you rated how close you think the United States is from this happening, where would you rank us?

I-----

God so fed up He turns away

What happens when God turns away? _____

What was the problem with the prophets?

What did Micah have that these prophets didn't have? (3:8)

If God sent a message like Micah's to us, do you think we would be able to hear it, or would we tell the speaker to not be so negative?

What are the dangers of having hired “messengers” of God? _____

In 3:11, what false security did these people seem to have? _____

What do we find similar security in?

What would become of Jerusalem as a result?

What of the most “secure” place of all, God’s holy dwelling, the Temple that Solomon built?

What more distant future does Micah paint for Jerusalem in Micah 4?

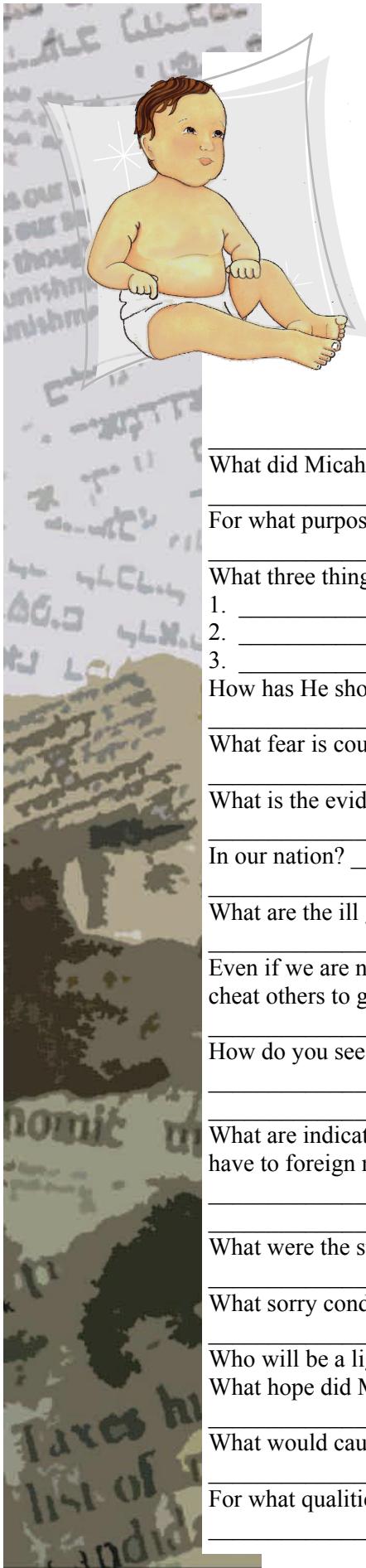
Compare these beginning verses with Revelation 20:6:

What words does Micah 4:3 share with Isaiah 2:4?

When will that time come?

Who will be formed into a strong nation that the Lord will reign over?

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What prophecy is given about the coming Messiah in Micah 5? _____

What is meant by the ruler from “old”? _____

How would the remnant be like the morning dew among many peoples? _____

How would they be like a lion? _____

What idols would God cut down? _____

Which of these can you most relate to? _____

What is meant by 5:15? _____

What did Micah include in his list of things that God had done for His people? _____

For what purpose had He done all of these? _____

What three things does the Lord require of His people?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How has He shown us what is good? _____

What fear is counted as wisdom? _____

What is the evidence of that in our lives? _____

In our nation? _____

What are the ill gotten treasures in 6:10? _____

Even if we are not in a retail trade, are there ways that we cheat others to get ahead? _____

How do you see people “eat, but not be satisfied”? _____

What are indications of current danger to losing what we have to foreign nations, or being taken into exile? _____

What were the statutes of Omri, and the practices of Ahab referred to in 6:16? _____

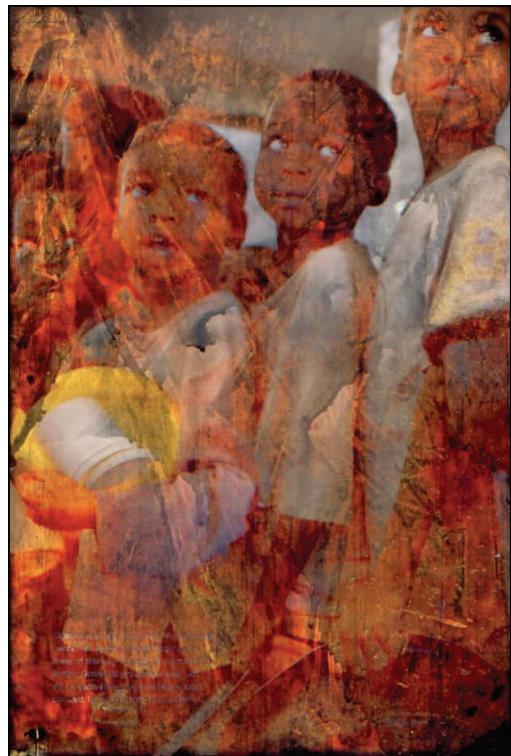
What sorry condition of his society did Micah relate in 7:1-7? _____

Who will be a light in the darkness? _____

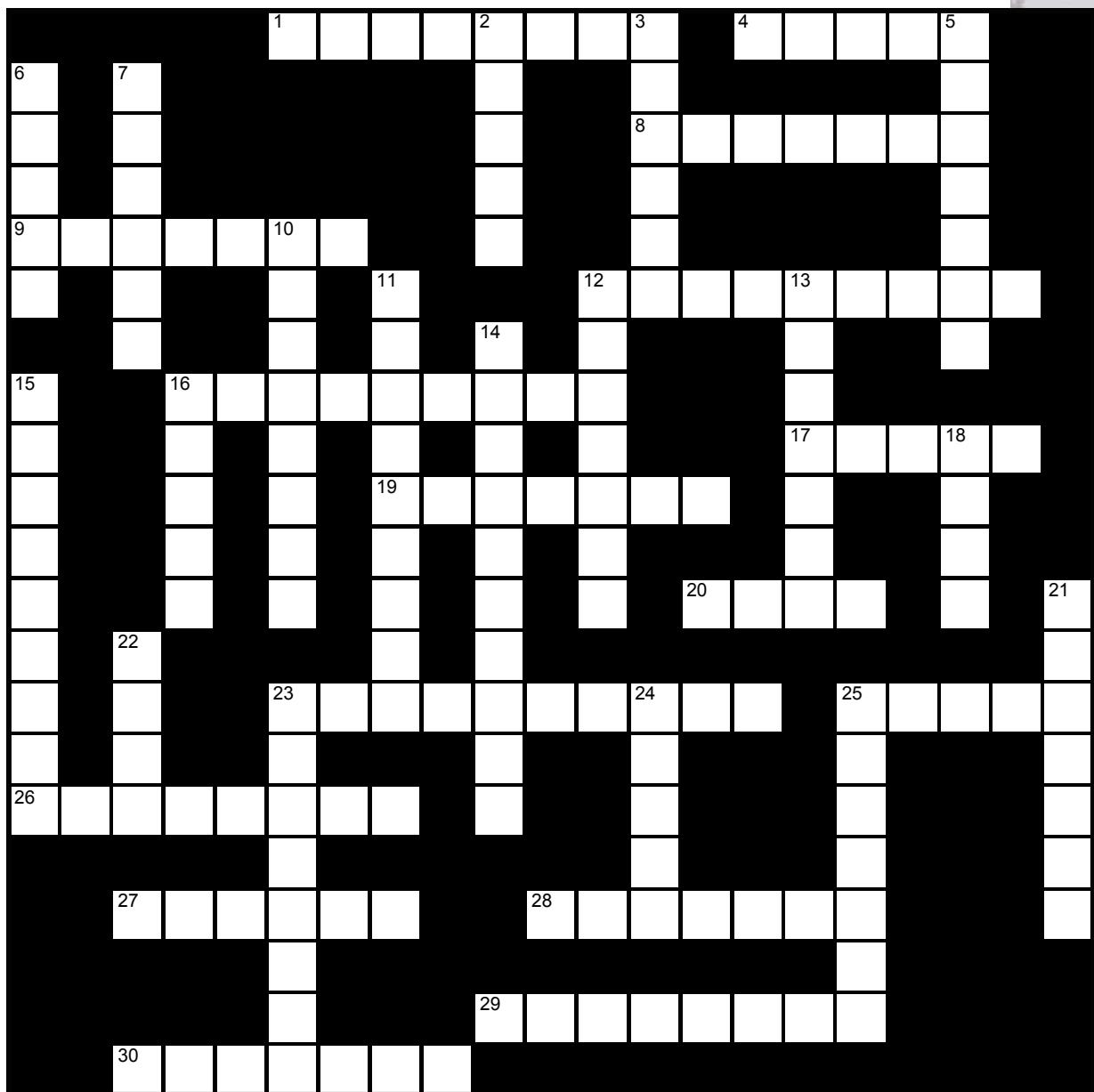
What hope did Micah give his people in 7:8-13? _____

What would cause the people to turn TO God in verse 17? _____

For what qualities did Micah praise God in verses 18-20? _____



PUZZLE PAGE



Clues

Across

- 1 coming to those who plot evil (8)
- 4 the Lord will be mine (5)
- 8 Daughter of Zion will be rescued from here (7)
- 9 hate good and love evil (7)
- 12 religious center of Judah (9)
- 16 melt like wax before the fire (9)

- 17 God does not stay _____ forever (5)
- 19 city of Judah which participated in the sins of Israel (7)
- 20 "they will turn in _____ to the Lord our God" (4)
- 23 God will again have this (10)
- 25 Micah was filled with this (5)
- 26 Micah prophesied during this king's reign (8)
- 27 to fear God's name is this (6)

Clues

Across continued

- 28** there would be none (7)
29 were leading people astray (8)
30 will be like dew (7)

Down

- 2** they will have to bear the _____ of many nations (5)
3 what Samaria would become (6)
5 speak deceitfully (7)
6 have been swept from the land (5)
7 in the last days, these will be made into pruning hooks (6)

- 10** walking _____ is something God requires (8)
11 the ruler of Israel would come from here (9)
12 a requirement of the Lord (7)
13 religious center of Israel (7)
14 to be destroyed by the Lord (10)
15 where Micah was from (9)
16 God delights to show this (5)
18 "though I have fallen, I will _____" (4)
21 what God's people mistakenly thought they were (7)
22 Micah prophesied during his reign (4)
23 shave heads in mourning for these (8)
24 would be broken to pieces (5)
25 teach for a price (7)

Where was Micah from? _____

Where was Israel's religious center? _____

Which city in Judah proved a warning for Jerusalem, and how? _____

Who destroyed Israel? _____

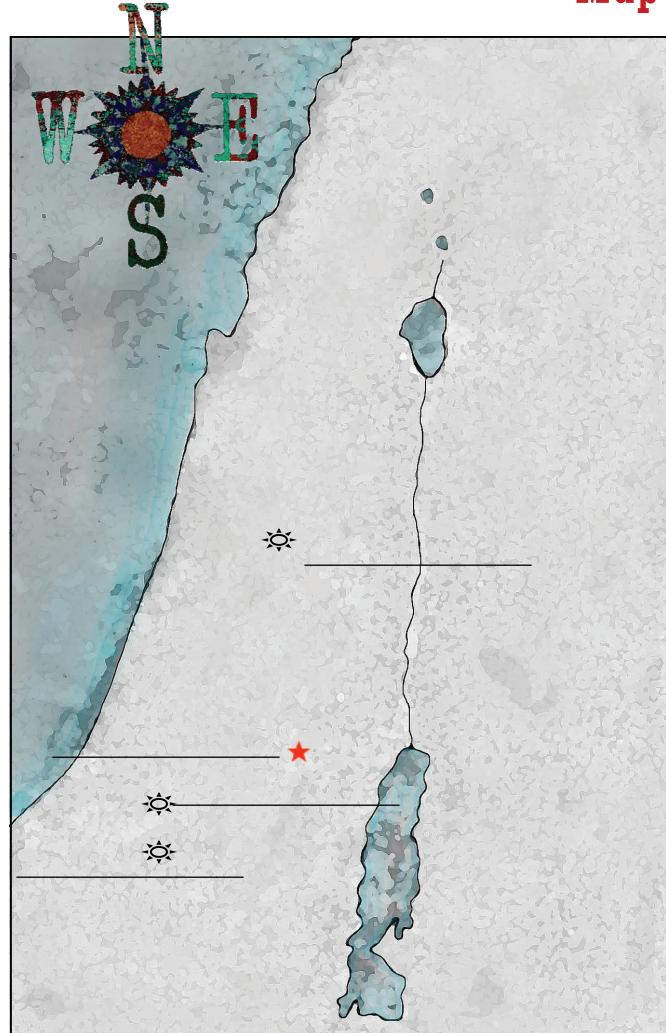
Who would destroy Judah? _____

What was especially bad about the leaders seizing land from people? (see 1 Kings 21)

What would happen to their land as a result?

What importance should the land of Judah, and city of Jerusalem have for the Christian today?

Map



Puzzle answers:

Sources:

The theme of the 2007 Lecture Series at Abilene Christian University was Micah, and many of the lectures are available free of charge from iTunes.

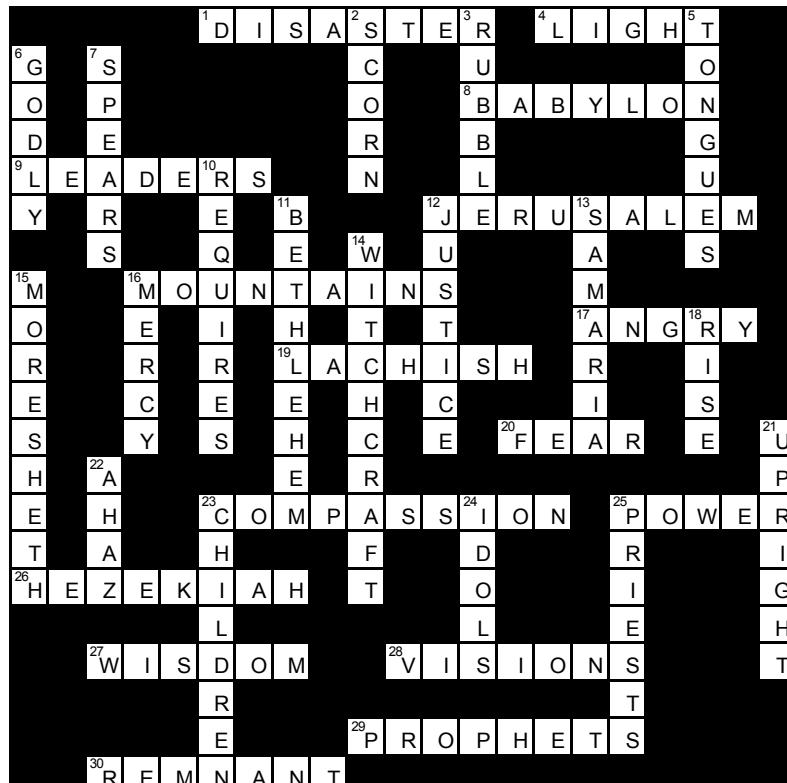
I would highly recommend **Her Wound is Incurable** by **Fred Asare** (number 152 on iTunes list), and our class also enjoyed **Who is a God Like You?** by **Jeff Walling** (number 158).

If you do not have iTunes installed:

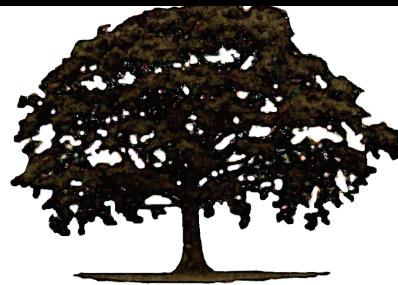
Download iTunes for Mac or Windows, free of charge at www.iTunes.com.

Open the iTunes application and click on iTunes Store.

In the Search box in the upper right hand corner, type ACU Summit 2007, and you will be given a list of all the talks available.



SOUNDS LIKE BITTER	GATH
SOUNDS LIKE DECEPTION	BETH OPHRAH
SOUNDS LIKE TELL	SHAPHIR
SOUNDS LIKE COME OUT	ZAAANAN
MEANS HOUSE OF DUST	MAROTH
SOUNDS LIKE CONQUEROR	LACHISH
SOUNDS LIKE TEAM	ACZIB
MEANS PLEASANT	MARESHAH



Down Victory Road

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All the towns listed in Micah 1:10-16 were destroyed by the Assyrians in 701 BC. Micah makes a play of words on each of their names. For some, he uses a similar sounding Hebrew word, while on others he uses the meaning of the name. Using the context, match the city to the right word or phrase. Check your answers in the key above.

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