

Micah

Injustice in Judah



Introduction

- Prophet: Micah-yah (“Who is like YHWH”) [Hometown: Moresheth (Gath, 1:14), SW Jerusalem]
- Date: late 8th c. B.C. (ca. 750-700, Jer. 26:18) [Jotham, 750-731; Ahaz, 735-715; Hezekiah, 715-686]
- Theme: Injustice in Judah [‘Amos of south’]

Message: Judah’s oppressive leaders will soon be overthrown, but YHWH promises that in the future the nation will be re-gathered, restored & ruled by a new David



Outline – 3 Cycles

(1) Judgment: Captured & Compensated (1:2-2:11)

[Hear, you peoples, all of you, 1:2]

– Restoration: Re-gather (2:12-13)

(2) Judgment: Capital Crushed (3:1-12)

[Hear, you heads of Jacob, 3:1]

– Restoration: Rule (4:1-5:15)

(3) Judgment: Covenant Curses (6:1-7:7)

[Hear what the LORD says, 6:1]

– Restoration: Redeemed (7:8-20)



Cycle #1: Captured (1:2-16)

○ Imminent: ‘YHWH is coming out. . .’ (1:2-2:11)

– *Induce*: enemies (Jdg. 5; Ps. 18), gen-spec (Amos)

– *Idolatry*: ‘carved images crushed, idols laid waste’

Samaria: ‘I will make Samaria a heap. . . I will pour down her stones into the valley’ (6-7)

Judah (8-16): ‘Disaster has come from YHWH for in you were found sins of Israel’ 1:12-13
[word-play on cities, mourn for coming exile]



Cycle #1: Compensated (2:1-11)

○ Imminent: ‘YHWH is coming out. . .’ (1:2-2:11)

– *Injustice*: ‘Woe to those who work evil’ (2:1-11)

[‘woe’ (הוי) stresses imminent death, cf. Jer. 34:5]

Irony: oppressors will be oppressed (1-5)

devise evil from dusk to dawn; YHWH *devises* evil, 2x;
wicked take fields (*sadot*), ruined (*šadod*), fields taken

Immune: ‘disgrace will not overtake us’ (6-11)

injustice was an outworking of their theology of God!

But YHWH rewards righteousness; thus, those who
‘rise up’ as an enemy, will ‘rise up’ and go into exile



Cycle #1: Re-gather (2:11-12)

- Remnant: ‘I will surely assemble all of you’(12)
 - Despite imminent judgment, Micah gives hope that the divine shepherd will *re-gather* His sheep.
- Return: ‘... YHWH is at their head’ (13)
 - God will send the nation into exile, but in the future they will return, with YHWH leading them.



Cycle #2: Capital Crushed (3:1-12)

- Injustice: '[Rulers] hate good, love evil' (1-4)
[head (2:13), cannibals 'tear, eat, flay,' *no answer*]
- Insincere: 'peace-eat, war-nothing' (5-7)
[prophets=no visions, no divination, *no answer!*]
Micah: 'filled w/ power, Spirit & justice, to declare sin' (8)
- Injustice: 'build Zion w/ blood' (9-12)
[unjust/proud, *YHWH among us, Zion to be plowed*]

Micah 3:12, center Book of Twelve, Jer. 26:18



Cycle #2: Rule (4:1-5:15)

YHWH's universal **reign** over repentant nations (4:1-5)

YHWH will strengthen **remnant** (4:6-7a)

Restoration of Zion's former **rule** (4:7b-8)

Removal of Davidic king, Zion in labor (4:9-10)

Siege of Zion, **restriction** of her king (4:11)

God's hidden plan for Zion/nations (4:12-13)

Siege of Zion, **restriction** of her king (5:1)

Return of Davidic king, rebirth of Zion (5:2-3)

Restoration of **rule** of Davidic kingdom (5:4-6)

YHWH will strengthen **remnant** (5:7-9)

YHWH's universal **reign** over unrepentant nations (5:10-15)

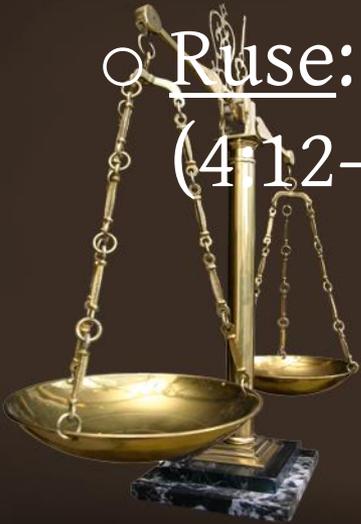
Cycle #2: Rule (4:1-5:15)

- Reign: YHWH, judge of all nations (4:1-5; 5:10-15)
 - Obey: justice, peace, security; *commit!* (4:1-5)
 - Disobey: purify His people, judge nations (5:10-15)
- Remnant: YHWH rescues weak (4:6-7a; 5:7-9)
 - Re-gather: 'gather/make remnant strong' (4:6-7a)
 - Resist? Enemies unable to resist (dew/lion, 5:7-9)
- Rule: dominion/shepherd (4:7b-8; 5:4-6)
Future in pattern of past, Zech. 10:11, Isa. 19:23f



Cycle #2: Rule (4:1-5:15)

- Reversed: removed, then restored (4:9-10; 5:2-3)
 - Ruler: lose king (4:9-10)/2nd David (5:2-3; Amos 9)
 - Return: ‘shall go out’ (4:10), ‘return/reunify’ (5:3)
- Restricted: Zion to be sieged, afflicted (4:11; 5:1)
[5:5-6, Micah seems to refer to Sennacherib, 701 B.C.]
- Ruse: YHWH lures nations for Israel’s victory
(4:12-13)



Cycle #3: Curses (6:1-7:7)

- Lawsuit: ‘YHWH indicts Israel’ (1-8; Deut. 4:26, 32:1)
[burdened? Irony! *God desires right living, not ritual*]
- Lawless: ‘voice of YHWH cries to the city’ (9-16)
[the unjust (*greed, violence, deceit*) will receive justice!]
- Lament: ‘Woe is me... I will look to YHWH’ (7:1-7)
[instead of fruit (*godly*), only thorns (*injustice*)!
Even trusted relationships had disintegrated]
Hinge: ‘*But as for me, I will look to YHWH...*’ (7:7)



Cycle #3: Redeemed (7:8-20)

- Salvation: ‘I will look on his vindication’ (8-13)
[Admit sin/judgment, Zion confident of restoration]

*Zion, soon to be dark from judgment, will be rebuilt,
while rejoicing of enemies will become desolation!*

- Savior: ‘Shepherd, as in days of old’ (14-20)

*[2nd exodus; ‘Micah’ confesses YHWH is unique;
note Micah’s confidence based in God’s covenant!]*



Summary

In three cycles of speeches, Micah envisions God's judgment on the rampant injustice in Judah: enemies will capture and compensate them for their sinful deeds (*irony*)! Their capital will be crushed and God's curses unleashed!

Yet, God assures that in the future the exiles would be re-gathered, ruled by a divine representative (David), and restored by divine mercy!

