

The Champion of the Poor and Downtrodden

Micah

PROPOSITION: Micah presents Jehovah God in a courtroom situation with a case against Israel and Judah.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Micah was written sometime between 750 and 700 B.C.
 - a. A time of turmoil and strife
 - b. The wealthy coveted the lands of the poor and robbed the poor.
 - c. Religious reforms had been initiated by Hezekiah, but Micah was not impressed.
2. Key Verse: Micah 6:8
3. Outline of the book of Micah
 - a. Denunciation of Israel and Judah (chapters 1, 2)
 - b. Devastation and Exaltation (chapters 3-5)
 - c. Disputation (Controversy) of God with His people (chapters 6, 7)
4. Israel had a weak judicial system that encouraged indifference toward the law. The problem in Israel and Judah as Micah defined it:
 - a. The leaders of the people were corrupt (3:11).
 - b. In their greed, the rulers were like cannibals (3:1-3).
 - c. The judges judged for bribes (7:3).
5. The prophets, priests, and princes had failed. Now, only God could take charge and action.

DISCUSSION: In the controversy with His people, God is...

I. The Plaintiff.

- A. God is the One bringing a lawsuit against His people (Micah 6:2).
- B. The Lord's charges are clearly given: idolatry (1:7), covetousness (2:2), oppression (2:2), violence (6:12; 7:2), corruption of princes, prophets, and priests (3:9, 10; 3:5; 3:11), bribery (7:3), dishonesty (6:11).

II. The Witness.

- A. "Let the Lord God be a witness against you" (Micah 1:2).
- B. A witness is one who has firsthand knowledge.
- C. The word "witness" is at home in the courtroom setting.
- D. The "holy temple" is heaven from which judgment comes.

III. The Judge.

- A. God will "decide" (Micah 4:3; cf. Gen. 31:36-42).
- B. God will allow His people to plead their case and make it known (Micah 6:1).
- C. He is fair and impartial.

IV. The Defender.

- A. God will plead our cause and execute judgment for us (Micah 7:9).
- B. Justice prevails (7:19, 20).
- C. "Israel" today is the church (Rom. 2:28, 29; cf. Rom. 3:25, 26).
- D. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfill Micah's prophecy (5:2).

CONCLUSION:

1. What Micah predicted came to pass (cf. Deut. 18:15-19). His word is vindicated.
2. Therefore, we must listen to what he said we must do (cf. Micah 6:8).

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