

Old Testament Lesson 33

MICAHA PROPHECIES OF THE LAST DAYS

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, September 2002

Kings During the Ministries of Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah

(*BD* = *Bible Dictionary* *PPOT* = *Prophets and Prophecies of the Old Testament* (Crowther))

Israel (7 final kings before falling to Assyria)

Judah (4 kings during this period)

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| <p>13. Jeroboam (II) 826-773 B.C. Reigned 41 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 13:13; 14:16, 23-29; 15:1, 8. BD: 712. PPOT: 61-62, 72, 179-180, 185, 221, 247, 253, 257, 258, 261, 264, 268, 270-271, 303.</i></p> <p>14. Zachariah 773-772 B.C. Reigned 6 months. <i>2 Ki. 14:29; 15:8-12; 18:2. BD: 790. PPOT: 62, 72, 180, 271, 303.</i></p> <p>15. Shallum 772 B.C. Reigned 1 month. <i>2 Ki. 15:10, 13-15. BD: 772. PPOT: 62, 72, 180, 271, 303.</i></p> <p>16. Menahem 772-761 B.C. Reigned 10 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 15:13-22. BD: no. PPOT: 62-63, 72, 180, 271, 283, 300, 303.</i></p> <p>17. Pekahiah 761-759 B.C. Reigned 2 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 15: 22-26. BD: 748. PPOT: 62, 72, 180, 271, 283, 300, 303.</i></p> <p>18. Pekah 759-730 B.C. Reigned 29 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 15:25-32, 37; 16:1, 5; 2 Ch. 28:5-15; Is. 7:1-9. BD: 748. PPOT: 64-66, 72, 174, 180, 184, 185, 271, 283, 297, 300, 303, 307.</i></p> <p>19. Hoshea 730-721 B.C. Reigned 9 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 15:29-30; 17:1-6; 18:1-11. BD: no. PPOT: 66-67, 73, 175, 180, 181, 185, 271, 283, 300, 303.</i></p> | <p>10. Uzziah (Azariah) 811-758 B.C. Reigned 52 yrs. <i>2 Ch. 26:1-23; 2 Ki. 14:21-22; 15:1-8; Zech. 14:5; Is. 6:1. BD: 787. PPOT: 61-64. 72, 174, 183-184, 231, 247, 257-258, 270, 272, 297, 299, 300, 303, 623.</i></p> <p>11. Jotham 758-742 B.C. Reigned 16 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 15:5, 32-38; 2 Ch. 27:1-9; Is. 1:1; Hos. 1:1; Mic. 1:1. BD: 718. PPOT: 63-64, 66, 72, 184, 270, 272, 282-283, 297, 299, 300, 303.</i></p> <p>12. Ahaz 742-726 B.C. Reigned 16 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 16:1-20; 2 Ch. 28:1-27; Is. 7:1-25. BD: 605. PPOT: 64-66, 72, 184, 186, 270, 272, 282-283, 297, 299, 300, 303, 307-309, 319, 337, 425.</i></p> <p>13. Hezekiah 726-697 B.C. Reigned 29 yrs. <i>2 Ki. 18:1-21:3; 2 Ch. 29:1-33:3; Is. 36:1-39:8. BD: 702. PPOT: 66-68, 73, 107, 175, 184-185, 186, 229, 270, 272, 282-284, 294, 297, 299-302, 303, 314, 315, 319, 324, 406, 412-413, 437.</i></p> |
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Kings of Assyria (second phase, late kingdom)

- 5. Tiglath-pileser (III)** [c. 747-734 B.C.], also known as **Pul**. He overran the northern area of Israel in 734 B.C. (during the reign of Pekah, king of Israel), and conquered Damascus (capital of Syria) two years later began the Assyrian policy of moving conquered populations to other areas. *BD: 785, 755-756.*
- 6. Shalmaneser (V)** [c. 726-722 B.C.], was the son of Tiglath-pileser. He laid siege to Samaria (capital of Israel) during the reign of Israel's king Hoshea, but died before the city fell. *BD: 772.*
- 7. Sargon (II)** [c. 721-705 B.C.], an Assyrian army general, completed the siege of Samaria and deported the 10 tribes of Israel to the northern and eastern provinces of the Assyrian empire. He defeated the remaining major states of Syria in 720 and 717 B.C. He was troubled by a Babylonian prince, Merodach-baladan, who made an alliance with Hezekiah, king of Judah, against Assyria (2 Ki. 20:12; 2 Ch. 32:31; Is. 39:1). *BD: 769.*
- 8. Sennacherib** [c. 704-681 B.C.], son of Sargon II. In 701 B.C. he invaded Judah and exacted heavy tribute from Hezekiah, the king of Judah. In 698, apparently because he was defeated by the Babylonians and Elamites at the battle of Khalule, new rebellions broke out. Hezekiah again rebelled, and Sennacherib again attacked

Judah. His army was suddenly smitten (by plague?) and he was compelled to return to Nineveh. **BD: 771**

Events Leading to the Fall of Israel to Assyria

First Attack by Assyria Against Israel

1. 2 Ki. 15:19-20: (c. 772-761 B.C.) As part of his policy of rapid growth by conquering neighboring territories **Pul [Tiglath-pileser]**, king of Assyria, came against Israel. Israel's king **Menahem** gave him 1,000 talents silver "to confirm the kingdom in his hand."

Second Attack by Assyria Against Israel, and Deportation of the Northern Tribes

2. 2 Ki. 15:29: (c. 734 B.C.) In the days of **Pekah**, king of Israel, **Tiglath-pileser took "Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria."** [The tribes of Manasseh, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Asher, and Dan] *See Map 3.*

The Syro-Ephraimite War (c. 734 B.C.) - *an attempt by Israel and Syria to force Judah to stand with them in resisting Assyria. They sought to depose Judah's king Jotham and establish a king in Judah who would side with their cause.* (Is. 7:6)

3. 2 Ki. 15:37: (c. 734 B.C.) "In those days [the reign of **Jotham**, king of Judah] the LORD began to send against Judah **Rezin** the king of Syria, and **Pekah** [the king of Israel] the son of Remaliah." [Then **Jotham** died, and his 20-year-old son **Ahaz** became king of Judah. 2 Ki. 16:1-3.] King **Ahaz** sought and received counsel from the prophet Isaiah, who prophesied that Israel [Ephraim] would soon cease to be a people (Is. 7:8), that the two kings who oppressed him would soon be removed (Is. 7:16), and warned that the real danger would soon come from Assyria (Is. 7:17-25).
4. 2 Ki. 18:5; 2 Ch. 28:1-15: When **Rezin** [king of Syria] and **Pekah** [king of Israel] came and besieged Jerusalem, they couldn't conquer the city, but they conquered much of the rest of Judah. Many Jewish soldiers were slain; many others were taken captive but were freed through the efforts of the prophet Oded.

Assyria's Attack on Syria

5. 2 Ki. 16:7-10; 2 Ch. 28:16, 20-21: While Jerusalem was under siege by the forces of Syria and Israel, king **Ahaz** [of Judah] sent messengers to **Tiglath-pileser** [of Assyria], asking him to come and save Judah from Syria and Israel. The Assyrian king attacked Syria, conquered Damascus, its capital, and killed **Rezin**. The king Ahaz went to Damascus and met with Tiglath-pileser. The Assyrian king "distressed him, but strengthened him not."

New Kings of Israel and Judah

6. 2 Ki. 17:1-2: (c. 730 B.C.) In the 12th year that Ahaz was king of Judah, **Hoshea** began to reign as king of Israel. (See 2 Ki. 15:30—a chronological problem.)
7. 2 Ki. 18:1: In the third year of Hoshea's reign as king of Israel, king **Ahaz** of Judah died (2 Ki. 16:20). His son, 25-year-old **Hezekiah**, began his 29-year reign. He rebelled against the king of Assyria, and "served him not" (2 Ki. 18:7).

Third Attack by Assyria Against Israel

8. 2 Ki. 17:3: **Shalmaneser**, king of Assyria, came against **Hoshea** [king of Israel] and made him his servant. He began exacting yearly "presents," or tribute.

Fourth Attack by Assyria Against Israel; Deportation of the Rest of the Ten Tribes

9. 2 Ki. 17:4: When **Hoshea** [king of Israel] conspired to recruit aid from Egypt to resist Assyria, and failed to pay the yearly tribute, **Shalmaneser** [the king of Assyria] put him in prison and marched on Israel.
10. 2 Ki. 17:5-6; 18:9-11: The Assyrians "came up throughout all the land," and besieged Samaria for three years. **Shalmaneser** died during the siege, and was replaced by **Sargon**. When Samaria fell (c. 721 B.C.), **Sargon carried what remained of the tribes of Israel away into Assyria.** (Primarily the tribes of Ephraim, Gad, Reuben, Simeon, part of the tribe of Benjamin, and the remainder of the tribes of Dan and Manasseh.) He

brought other conquered peoples from the north and settled them in the cities of Samaria (2 Ki. 17:23-24). The new settlers brought other forms of idolatry into the land (2 Ki. 17:25-32).

Attack by Assyria Against Judah

11. 2 Ki. 18:13-16: (c. 712 B.C.) In the 14th year of king **Hezekiah's** reign as king of Judah, **Sennacherib**, king of Assyria, attacked Judah. He conquered many of the fenced cities while laying siege to the city of Lachish. Hezekiah sent tribute to the Assyrian king and said he would submit to his rule once again. Sennacherib wouldn't accept his apology and maintained his battle plans.
12. 2 Ki. 18:17-37; 19:8-13: **Sennacherib** sent his forces against Jerusalem (2 Ki. 18:17), and sent his officers to taunt the Jews and weaken their resistance.
13. 2 Ki. 19:1: **Hezekiah** sought counsel from the LORD's prophet, **Isaiah**, who conveyed the LORD's word that "he [Sennacherib] shall hear a rumor, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword of his own land." [v. 19:7; fulfilled: 2 Ki. 19:35-37]
14. 2 Ki. 19:1-7, 14-34: **Hezekiah** prayed to the LORD fervently. The LORD answered his prayer by having his prophet **Isaiah** send him a message saying "That which thou has prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria have I heard" (2 Ki. 19:20), and making the promise that "I will defend this city, to save it (2 Ki. 19:34), and saying, concerning the Assyrian king, "He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with a shield, nor cast a bank against it (2 Ki. 19:32).
15. 2 Ki. 19:35-37: That night the **angel of the LORD** went into the Assyrian camp and *slew 185,000 of the Assyrian warriors*, so **Sennacherib** left with the remainder of his army. He was assassinated by two of his sons in Nineveh.

Four Periods of Prophetic Fulfillment

The Old Testament prophets typically taught and prophesied concerning one of four periods of time:

1. *Events Before and During the Fall of Israel to Assyria* (800-700 B.C.)
2. *Events Before and During the Fall of Judah to Babylonia, the Babylonian Captivity, and the Jewish Return to Palestine* (635-440 B.C.)
3. *Events Before and During the Ministry of Christ* (7 B.C. to A.D. 33)
4. *Events During the Last Days* (beginning with the restoration of the Gospel about A.D. 1820)

The Ministry of the Prophet Micah

1. Micah preached to Israel and Judah during the ministry of three kings of Judah: **Jotham** (758-742 B.C.), **Ahaz** (742-726 B.C.), and **Hezekiah** (726-697 B.C.)
2. He preached just before the fall of Israel's capital, Samaria, to Assyria (1:6). He is mentioned in Jer. 26:17-19 as preaching during the reign of Hezekiah. Thus his ministry could have been as long as 61 years (758-697 B.C.) or as short as 16 years (742-726 B.C.)
3. He was from Moreshath-Gath (1:14), a small town in the maritime plain, a low hilly region about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
4. He was a product of the open hills and showed dislike for the cities (1:5, 5:11, 6:9).
5. As a member of the oppressed peasantry, he spoke for the common people and defended them against the corrupt nobles and rich landlords of Judah.
6. He is considered by most scholars as being a younger contemporary of the prophet Isaiah.
7. National conditions during his ministry: *Political*: Power had become concentrated in Jerusalem. City rulers oppressed the rural population with heavy taxation to support their policy of paying tribute to Assyria and to fight

the city of Jerusalem. Corrupt judges aided their friends in robbing the poor. Bribes and intrigue were characteristic of most governmental and judicial decisions. **Economic:** There was great social and moral decay. There was a strong effort by large land-owners to evict small property owners and enlarge their estates. High : unequal taxation and foreclosures on credit were the tools by which the poor were oppressed by the rich. **Religious:** There was much idolatry and worship of pagan deities. National misfortunes were mistakenly interpreted as indications of Jehovah's anger. The people attempted to appease this anger by observing pagan worship forms such as offering their children as sacrifices. The terror of approaching destruction led the people to persecute those who worshiped only Jehovah and who would not seek the aid of pagan deities.

7. The book of Micah is entirely in poetry except for the superscription. Written in excellent Hebrew, the poem is regular and in correct Hebrew style. Micah's speech is bold and direct. He uses much imagery and picturesque phraseology which makes his language beautiful and rich. His topics are logically and rapidly developed. He shows strong emotions, both anger and tenderness.

Micah's Prophecies

1. Micah and Isaiah were the only two Old Testament prophets who prophesied of all four periods of prophetic development.

2. Prophecies of the First Period of Prophetic Fulfillment: The imminent fall of Israel to Assyria.

- A. *Mi. 1:5-9:* I will make Samaria as an heap of the field; graven images shall be made desolate.
- B. *Mi. 3:1-7:* The prophets that make my people err shall have no vision, no answer from God.
- C. *Mi. 6:2, 11-15:* Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied, sow but not reap.

3. Prophecy of the Second Period of Prophetic Fulfillment: Judah's eventual fall to Babylonia and return from the Babylonian captivity.

- A. *Mi. 4:8-10:* Be in pain, and labor to bring forth. Thou shalt go even to Babylon.

4. Prophecy of the Third Period of Prophetic Fulfillment: the Savior's Ministry in the Meridian of Time.

- A. *Mi. 5:1-2:* Out of Bethlehem shall come forth that is to be the ruler in Israel.

5. Prophecies of the Fourth Period of Prophetic Fulfillment: The Last Days.

- A. *Mi. 1:2-4:* The LORD's second coming, the mountains shall be molten under him.
- B. *Mi. 2:12-13:* The LORD shall assemble the remnant of Israel, a great multitude.
- C. *Mi. 4:1-3:* In the last days the house of the Lord shall be established, many nations shall come to it. The LORD shall judge among many people. (Compare *Is. 2:1-4*)
- D. *Mi. 4:4-8:* Peace during the millennium; the LORD shall reign from Mt. Zion.
- E. *Mi. 4:11-13:* When many nations are gathered against it, Israel will beat in pieces many people. (Compare *3 Ne. 20:15-22*)
- F. *Mi. 5:1-7:* The ruler in Israel shall waste the land of Assyria when he cometh into our land.
- G. *Mi. 5:8-15:* The remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles as a lion among the beasts of the forest. I will cut off the cities, throw down all thy strongholds, execute vengeance. (Compare *3 Ne. 21:12-21.*)

6. Counsel for righteous living:

- A. *Mi. 2:7:* Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?
- B. *Mi. 3:8:* Truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might.
- C. *Mi. 6:6-8:* What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

D. *Mi. 7:7*: Therefore I will look unto the LORD: I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will help me.

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