

## Micah Lesson Two

- I. This section deals with the invasion of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem. The Lord would specifically judge by sending the Assyrian army against the cities of Judah. Micah grieves over the disaster that would befall Judah. This horrible judgment would affect his fellow countrymen, his hometown, and even members of his family. Because the people had become immune to prophetic warnings of judgment, Micah employs a series of vivid puns and wordplays to depict the fate of the various towns that would fall to the Assyrians. The listing of these cities enabled the prophet's audience to imagine the route of the invading army as they marched toward Jerusalem. "Don't announce it in Gath" in 1:10 recalls the death of King Saul and provides the ominous warning of a similar national disaster in Judah's immediate future
- II. The annals of Sennacherib describe his conquest of the cities of Judah: "As to the King, he did not submit to my yoke. I laid siege to his strong cities, walled forts, and countless small villages, and conquered them by means of well-stamped earth-ramps and battering-rams brought near the walls with an attack by foot soldiers, using mines, breeches as well as trenches. I drove out 200,150 people, young and old, male and female, horses, mules, donkeys, camels, big and small cattle beyond counting, and considered them slaves. Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage. I surrounded him with earthwork in order to molest those who were on his city's gate. Thus I reduced his country, but I still increased the tribute and the presents to me as overlord which I imposed upon him beyond the former tribute, to be delivered annually."
- III. Chapter two begins where Micah condemns the false prophets of Judah. This judgment speech elaborates on the reasons for the judgment the Lord plans to send against Jerusalem. Micah lays the blame for the corruption of Judah on the privileged and powerful. The wealthy used their resources and influence to exploit the poor and needy.
- IV. Judah's spiritual leaders had promoted apostasy and actively opposed Micah's ministry as he warned of the coming judgment (2:6-11). The false prophets commanded Micah, "Quit your preaching." Micah's conflict with the false prophets arose over their fundamentally different understandings of Yahweh's covenant relationship with his people.
- V. Following these stern words of judgement, Micah then switches gears to restoration for the remnant of the faithful. This becomes a powerful messianic prophecy of the Shepherd King.
- VI. In the 3rd Chapter Micah returns to a condemnation of the nation's leaders. Because of the corruption of Judah's leaders, the Lord would destroy Jerusalem and its temple. Jerusalem would share the fate of Samaria, and the temple mount would become a heap of ruins.