

I. Micah – Background Information

- A. Period – fall of Israel
 - 1. Sins are the same as Amos mentioned
 - 2. Optimism of Amos' day is gone
- B. Contemporary prophets
 - 1. Hosea – to Israel
 - 2. Isaiah – to Judah (with whom he seems to be familiar)
- C. Micah is the only prophet who formally addresses both kingdoms
- D. Mood of the message is much more quiet and measured than Amos
- E. Style is less formal, more abrupt

II. Basic Message

- A. Outline
 - 1. Message of Judgment 1-2**
 - 2. Message of Hope 3-5**
 - 3. Call to Respond 6-7**
- B. Sections 1 and 2 are simply a statement of what God will do
 - 1. Because of sin, God will judge
 - a) Israel and Judah are seen as completely calloused in their sin
 - 2. Because of the covenant with Abraham, God will restore
 - 3. There is no call for them to act on this information

Assignment:

Read Hosea. Note that the first three chapters center on Hosea's experience with his wife. The whole message is given in light of that experience.

- C. Section 3 is a call to respond
1. This section takes on the form of a one man act or skit
 2. God is pictured as engaging in a court case with His people
 - a) Mountains are called to listen to the case
 - b) Three speaking characters
 - (1) God bringing the indictment
 - (2) The nation responding
 - (3) A monitor making comments
 3. God's indictment
 - a) Where is My fault that you have broken fellowship with Me?
 4. Peoples response
 - a) What will it take to make things right?
 - (1) Great sacrifices are suggested
 - (2) This is not a repentance, only a way to escape judgment (Note 7:10-12)
 - b) This is the essence of the idolatrous thinking
 - (1) How much will it cost for me to get God's blessing on my selfish activity
 5. Monitor's comment
 - a) Spoken in surprise, God has already made this clear
 - b) "He has told you, O man" (Adam)
 - c) What is the right way – what God wants
 - d) Three elements
 - (1) See that justice is done
 - (2) Love mercy (loyalty): *hesed* – this touches every relationship
 - (3) Walk in humility with God