

## Micah (part 1)

**Intro:** How can we relate to Micah? The background conditions of idolatry and injustice. He was a man from a little town taking on the big cities of Jerusalem and Samaria. David's last words in 2 Sam. 23:2-7 "The one who rules righteously, who rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning..."

## Chap. 1

**Mic. 1:2, 3** – *from his holy temple* could be as in Psalm 11:4 (remember that at David's time, the temple in Jerusalem had not been built) or could be from Jerusalem (Micah might have reason to emphasize the fact that the true place of worship was in city of Jerusalem)

## BIBLE-HISTORICAL BACKDROP:

Certain Kings in the Dynasty of David

**Uzziah** (783-742 B.C. 40+ years) 2 Kings 15; 2 Chron. 26

Also known as "Azariah"

Started at 16 years old

A fairly good king, but...

Leprosy for unauthorized offering

(note: father was Amaziah, who – after being held

captive in Israel by Joash – was assassinated in Lachish)

**Jotham** (750-735 B.C. 16 years) 2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Chron. 27

Co-regent with Uzziah until 742 B.C. (note: Isaiah begins)

Started at 25 years old

A fairly good king, but...

Was *tempted* to join Rezin, king of Syria and Pekah of Israel

"and the people continued in their corrupt ways." 2 Chr. 27:2

**Ahaz** (735-715 B.C. 16 years) 2 Kings 16; 2 Chron. 28

Co-regent with Jotham from 736/735??

Started at 20 years old

An awfully wicked king, even (burnt) offering his own son

When Ahaz refused their alliance against Assyria offer, Pekah,

king of Israel and Rezin, of Syria tried to have him replaced

Isaiah's gave warnings not to worry about the conspiracy

and not to seek help from Assyria (note: Isaiah 7:18-20)

(2 Chron. 28:5-8 tells of the oppression of this group on Ahaz.)

Ahaz makes an alliance with Assyria's king (2 Kings 16:7-18;

2 Chron. 28:16-18).<sup>i</sup>

Isaiah 7 is addressing this using the sign of Isaiah's

prophetess' son, Immanuel – "a virgin shall conceive..."

(Isa. 7:14-16; 8:3)

"The Lord was humbling Judah because of King Ahaz of

Judah, for he had encouraged his people to sin and had been

utterly unfaithful to the Lord. So when Tiglath-pileser III of

Assyria arrived, he oppressed King Ahaz instead of helping

him." (2 Chr. 28:19, 20)

Ahaz ignored prophets like Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah. Due to

his wickedness, he was not buried with the kings. (28:27)

**Hezekiah** (715-686 B.C. 29 years) 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chron. 29-32

Started at 25 years old.

Came into power while kingdom was subservient to Assyria.

He was a king "according to all that David his father did"

(2 Kgs. 18:3)

He rebelled against the king of Assyria (2 Kgs. 18:9

Shalmaneser V?)

(note: Shalmaneser V – 727-722 B.C. 3 years later captured

Samaria in 722 B.C.; after his death, his brother Sargon II

seized the crown that year.<sup>ii</sup>)

He came up against the Assyrian king Sennacherib

(2 Kgs. 18:13-19:37; 2 Chron. 32:1-33)

Hezekiah's tunnel was 1,750 feet long, and he stopped up the wells and springs throughout Judah.

An insight into Ahaz's neglect of the worship of the Lord is

found in the statement that on the first day of the month of

Nisan that followed Ahaz's death, his son Hezekiah

commissioned the priests and Levites to open

and repair the doors of the Temple and to remove the

defilements of the sanctuary, a task which took 16 days

(2 Chronicles 29:3-20).<sup>iii</sup>

Certain Prophets during this Era

Amos – (767-755 B.C.?) sometime around 760 B.C.

Hosea – (755-714 B.C.?) **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah**

Isaiah<sup>iv</sup> – (739-701 B.C.?) **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah**

Micah – (733-701 B.C.?) **Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah**

Certain kings of Assyria during this Era

Tiglath-pileser III (745-727 B.C.)

Shalmaneser V (727-722 B.C.) son of TP3

Sargon II (722-705 B.C.) son of TP3 or usurper?

Sennecherib (705-681 B.C.) son of Sargon II

Esar-haddon (681-669 B.C.) youngest son of Sennacherib

<sup>i</sup> In c. 732 BCE, **Pekah**, king of Israel, and **Rezin**, king of Aram, allied themselves and threatened Jerusalem. (2 Kings 16:5) Ahaz appealed for help to **Tiglath-Pileser III**, the king of **Assyria** and paid tribute to Tiglath-Pileser, (2 Kings 16:7-9) Tiglath-Pileser sacked Damascus and annexed Aram. According to 2 Kings 16:9, the population of Aram was deported and Rezin executed. According to 2 Kings 15:29, Tiglath-Pileser then attacked Israel and "took Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and deported the people to Assyria." Tiglath-Pileser also records this act in one of his inscriptions. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahaz>

<sup>ii</sup> Sargon II is mentioned only once in Bible: Is. 20:1 Sargon claims to have defeated Samaria in 722 B.C. – it probably was really Shalmaneser V, before being "ousted"

<sup>iii</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahaz>

<sup>iv</sup> It is believed that **Isaiah**, son of Amoz, was a 1st cousin to **Uzziah**, because Amoz maybe was a brother of King Amaziah of Judah.