

# Sermon Discussion Guide

*Judgment and Lament*

Micah 1:1-16

## Introduction and the Lord's messenger (1)

- What can be difficult about studying the prophets? How can they be beneficial?
- Key info about the book:
  - Micah's name means "Who is like the Lord?"
  - His prophecies address both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms
  - The prophecies were originally during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah of Judah
    - Between 750 BC and 687 BC
  - He is from Moresheth-Gath, in the southwestern part of Israel/Judah

## Samaria's judgment (2-7)

- How do verses 2-4 depict the Lord's judgment?
- Why is he coming in judgment according to verses 5-7?
- What are ways in which our hearts are similar to the people of Samaria? What does this passage call us to do in response?

## Judah's lament (8-16)

- What do verses 8-9 tell us about Micah's ministry and the people of Judah?
- What is striking about the judgment described in verses 10-15? (see additional note on back)
- How does Micah's call to lament (9-10, 16) affect how we view our sin?
  
- From the rest of Micah and the Scripture, how do we see that God has dealt with the sins of his people?
- What responses should we have to this passage, especially in light of the rest of Scripture?

## Additional Note: Summary of 1:10-15

- **(10) Tell it not in Gath** – picking up on David’s words in 2 Sam 1:20 over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.
- **Beth-le-aphrah** – “**Dust Town**” would roll themselves in the dust, a sign of mourning and sorrow
- **(11) Shaphir** – “**Beauty Town**” would be reduced to nakedness and shame in the captivity
- **Zaanah** – “**Going out (for battle) Town**” would not come out but would cower at the destruction
- **Beth-ezel** – “**Take Away Town**” would be taken away from their refuge
- **(12) Maroth** – “**Bitter Town**” would be waiting for good, but only disaster would come
- **(13) Lachish** was a “**Horse Town**” or a chariot city built by Solomon and here they are to harness the chariots to their race horses – ironic because instead of using the chariots for war the idea is using them to flee
  - Here the prophet indicts Lachish for **the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion**
  - It seems that their trust in military might was a snare and the beginning of the later problems for the kingdom of Judah
- **(14) Moresheth-gath** – “**Bride Town**” instead of receiving a wedding gift and departing to be married, they are giving parting gifts as they go into captivity
- **Achzib** – “**Deception Town**” they would have promised to help the “Kings of Israel” but their promised help was a lie as they are unable to thwart the Assyrians
- **(15) Mareshah** – “**Possession Town**” – the possessor will be possessed by their conquerors
- **(15b) The glory of Israel should come to Adullam** – the cave where David escaped from Saul
  - The glory of Israel can be a way of speaking of the mighty men of Israel
  - It is the undoing, the reversal of all of the glory of the kingdom of Israel/Judah