

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Micah

“Embedded Jewels”



Bible Studies
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Micah

Embedded Jewels

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Micah – Introduction

Micah is like a snapshot of the picture-perfect, 2-child, 2-car, 2-income family – *just before the divorce.*

Everything seems so great....*but tumult is about to overtake everyone's life.*

But...in the midst of dire warnings.... Micah's message is also full of embedded jewels: nuggets of truth which, when seen and responded to, can open up the treasure chest full of the true riches of life, even for those who have openly defied God.

The Jews themselves, though imperfect, were embedded jewels in the landscape of the world. They carried the shimmer of hope for a Savior through the centuries.

Here are a few of the embedded jewels of Micah – small, hidden reasons to hope in the midst of tragedy which was about to descend:

Micah 1:15a "He who is the glory of Israel will come to Adullam."

Micah 2:13 "One who breaks open will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head."

Micah 3:8 "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might."

Micah 4:12 "But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand His plan."

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 7:7 "But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."

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Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives...?"

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Two Sisters
Micah Chapter 1 – Questions

1. (:1) Verse one tells us three things about the book of Micah...what are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. (:2) Who is the book written to?
3. (:3&4) What event do you think Micah is referring to here?
4. (:5a) On what does Micah blame the coming cataclysm?
5. (:5b) What is the “rebellion of Jacob”?
6. (:6-7) What is going to happen to Samaria?
7. (:8-9) What does the “drama king” do here to illustrate his overpowering emotional response to the prophecy about Samaria?
8. (:9) Since Micah lives in Judah, why is he so distraught over what is about to happen to Samaria?
9. (:10-15) These verses contain several “plays-on-words”, using names of towns. It is almost like an encrypted message. Why do you think Micah, who has started out so openly expressive, would now use something sort of “secretive” to get across his point?
10. (:16) What does Micah want his readers to feel about the things he is telling them?

Application:

11. Micah did some extremely creative things to get his message from God into the eyes and ears of the people of Jerusalem. What creative things could you do to get across a message of extreme importance?
12. What is our message of extreme importance?

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Two Sisters

Micah Chapter 1 – Answer Key

1. (:1) Verse one tells us three things about the book of Micah...what are they?
 - a. The author is Micah of Moresheth
 - b. He ministered during the times of the kings...specifically, Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah
 - c. His message is to both Samaria (capital of Israel) and Jerusalem (capital of Judah). This does not mean that he is speaking only to these two cities. Just like today, when people will say “Washington”, but mean the “United States”, so also then it was common to say “Samaria” and mean Israel...or “Jerusalem” and mean Judah.

If we take some time here for a little background, it will help our understanding of the rest of this 7-chapter prophecy. Let's start with:

- a. **Micah.** He doesn't tell us who his father is...in other words, no lineage to give him a place in Jewish society, or a position of importance in anyone's mind. He is simply of “Moresheth” – which is a small village. No political, social, financial, or religious importance at all...except, of course, for the fact that the God of the Universe chose Him to deliver His messages. That ought to be enough.
- b. **He names three kings of Judah** (hold on a minute and we'll get to the significance of Judah and Israel) He says that the time of his ministry was during their reigns. Dating things according to the reign of a king was common then – for us it would look like this: ...instead of 2005, we might say during the 2nd term of George W.Bush.

Old Testament History tells us that Micah preached through the terms of Jotham and Ahaz (about 20 years) before he saw fantastic results – repentance and turning of hearts to the LORD – during the reign of Hezekiah (Jeremiah 26:18).

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Micah would be a great example for discouraged Christians today. Spread the message when God says to...wait for Him to give the results...don't get discouraged because you don't "see" anything happening.

c. **Samaria and Jersuaem...or, Israel and Judah:**

A little Jewish history:

- The LORD chose Abraham to be the father of the Jewish nation.
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph all lived in the Promised Land. But they never actually controlled, or "possessed" all the Promised Land. They only knew that God had promised someday their ancestors would.
- The Jews moved to Egypt during the time of Joseph in order to escape a famine, and there they stayed for over 400 years.
- They became enslaved in Egypt, and only the miraculous deliverance of the LORD God, under the leadership of Moses, brought them back into the Promised Land (Passover)
- They faltered in their trust of God when they reached the Promised Land, and so had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.
- When they finally did enter the Promised Land, under the leadership of Joshua, they spent many years getting the whole land under their control. And then they spent many years falling apart because they had weak leadership and little faith (the time of the Judges)
- They demanded that God give them a King, so He did – Saul. But neither the timing nor the man were right – so Saul failed.
- But after Saul came a young shepherd boy/King, named David, who united this scattered and weak people into a mighty nation.
- David's son Solomon ruled when David died...but led the people into a weak position because he allowed idol-worship.
- After Solomon died, the once-great Kingdom of Israel had a civil war – splitting in two – the northern part of the nation became "**Israel**", with its capital of Samaria; and the southern part of the nation became "**Judah**", with its capital of Jerusalem.
- The kingdom of Judah was the part of the nation which stuck the closest to the LORD God for the longest...but eventually both Israel and Judah succumbed to idol-worship, and were carted away by enemies...Israel first, then Judah about 200 years later.
- Micah's message from the LORD came before either kingdom was carried away into captivity. He prophesied from the

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kingdom of Judah – but his message reached also into the kingdom of Israel.

The two sisters...Israel and Judah...were so different...but so much alike.

Israel veered away from the LORD and decided to become Jews who worshipped in a place more convenient than Jerusalem (the place God had said they must worship). They left obedience and settled for comfort...and ended up in slavery.

Judah veered away, then came back. Veered away, then came back. Listened to the prophets, then persecuted the prophets. Worshipped the One, True, God in the place of His choosing...then brought idols into that place of worship, and bowed before them, too. They, too, ended up abused and displaced.

The two sisters...Israel and Judah...were filled with Jews – chosen to spread the good news about God to the world - who failed miserably.

Micah is a snapshot of the picture-perfect, 2-child, 2-car, 2-income family – *just before the divorce.*

2. (:2) Who is the book written to?

All the people of the world. What happens to Israel is a sign to the world. The people of Israel were chosen to show God to the world. They were jewels embedded in the landscape of a fallen world. Even in failing...they accomplished their purpose. The world would see what happened to Israel as they turned their backs on the one, true God...and as a result, the world would know something about that one, true God.

3. (:3&4) What event do you think Micah is referring to here?

The Day of the Lord. The same event described in Joel chapter 2. Malachi 4:5, I Corinthians 5:5, II Corinthians 1:14, I Thessalonians 5:2, and II Peter 3:10-13. The time when God finishes what He started...and the world as we know it is wrested once and for all from the hands of the evil angel, Satan.

4. (:5a) On what does Micah blame the coming cataclysm?

The sins of Israel. Why? Why is it Israel's fault that the LORD must return in judgment? The sins of Israel are a picture of the sins of the world....

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5. (:5b) What is the “rebellion of Jacob”?

It describes a people who realize there is a God, know what He wants, and do the opposite. In Samaria Israel decided to worship God their way, not His. And in Jerusalem Judah was doing the same.

6. (:6-7) What is going to happen to Samaria (Israel)?

Here’s what will happen to Samaria because of what they have done. Jerusalem...are you watching your sister? Will you learn?

7. (:8-9) What does the “drama king” do here to illustrate his overpowering emotional response to the prophecy about Samaria?

Micah may be just a country boy, but wow! - does he ever know how to get a message across to a wide variety of people! There is reason to believe that Micah not only expressed his grief in words..”I will go about barefoot and naked...”, but that he actually paraded through the streets of Jerusalem in that very state – pouring out his grief into the ears of shocked onlookers.

8. (:9) Since Micah lives in Judah, why is he so distraught over what is about to happen to Samaria?

Because the sin of Israel has come to Judah. There are no national boundaries which can hold back sin. Israel was worshipping other Gods. Judah had begun to do the same. The coming punishment for Samaria would reach almost to the gates of Jerusalem. They were going to feel the heat of the battle at their doorstep. Only repentance would stop the enemy’s advance.

9. (:10-15) These verses contain several “plays-on-words”, using names of towns. It is almost like an encrypted message. Why do you think Micah, who has started out so openly expressive, would now use something sort of “secretive” to get across his point?

:10 – Beth Ophrah means “house of dust”

:11 – Shapir means “pleasant”

:11 – Zaanah sounds like “come out”

:11 – Beth Ezel means “house of removal”

:12 – Maroth means “bitter”

:13 – Lachish sounds like “team”

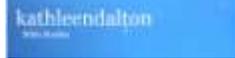
:14 – Aczib means “deception”

:15 – Mareshah sounds like “conqueror”

I think he does this because it has even more impact on his listeners and readers. If they have to guess at what he means, they have to think about it more.

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10. (:16) What does Micah want his readers to feel about the things he is telling them?

He wants them to grieve. To mourn. Israel – the northern kingdom is going into exile. It will be horrendous. Rape. Murder. Children will starve. Those who survive may never come back. Those who are left will have no homes, no food. Grieve and mourn. Because you are headed to the same place, Jerusalem, unless you grieve and mourn.

Application:

11. Micah did some extremely creative things to get his message from God into the eyes and ears of the people of Jerusalem.

- a. He preached
- b. He walked about barefoot & naked
- c. He made up riddles and poems

What creative things could you do to get across a message of extreme importance?

12. What is our message of extreme importance?

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Treasure Hunt
Micah Chapters 2 & 3 – Questions

1. The people of God had the right to certain things:
 - a. **Their inheritance** – the lands which God gave to them
 - b. **The truth** – God had given them prophets to be sure they could tell what was true and what wasn't
 - c. **Godly Leaders** who are dedicated to doing things God's way
- From Chapter 2:1-5, what has happened to their inheritance?
- From Chapter 2:6-11, and 3:5-7, what has happened to the truth?
- From Chapter 3:1-4, what has happened to their leaders?
- From Chapter 3:9-12, who is God holding responsible for the destruction which is coming upon Jerusalem?
2. But there are 3 hidden verses in these 2 chapters...embedded jewels of truth and hope. Can you find them? What hope do they give?
3. Why do you think Micah "hid" these jewels within his message?

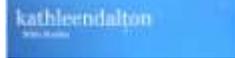
APPLICATION:

4. What is always the result of sin?
5. What is our "embedded jewel", even when we are the ones responsible for our own calamities?

Bonus:

Memorize the embedded jewels found in chapters 2 & 3:

- 2:12&13



Treasure Hunt

Micah Chapters 2 & 3 – Answer Key

1. The people of God had the right to certain things:
 - a. **Their inheritance** – the lands which God gave to them
 1. The land of Israel was given to Abraham and to all of his descendants. (Genesis 12:1) When Joshua finally led the people of Israel in to conquer the land, it was divided amongst the 12 tribes of Israel (Joshua 1:6, Joshua chapters 13-21).
 2. The land was always to stay within the tribe to whom it was given. Even if it was sold to pay off debts, it was to come back to the original owner at the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-28)
 - b. **The truth** – God had given them His own words through prophets to be sure they could tell what was true and what wasn't. (Deuteronomy 29:29, Deuteronomy 30:11-13, 19-20, I Samuel 3:19-21)
 - c. **Godly Leaders** who are dedicated to doing things God's way (God chose David as King of Israel – a man after God's own heart. I Samuel 13:14, II Sam 8:15, II Samuel 7)
- From Chapter 2:1-5, what has happened to their inheritance? Those in power who “plan iniquity” have found ways to steal people’s inheritances from them. No longer does a man even know what his original inheritance was. There is no one who will enforce the rules of God.
- From Chapter 2:6-11, and 3:5-7, what has happened to the truth? The true prophets of God are ridiculed. The rest of the “prophets” are willing to give everyone “good news” and tell them how much God loves them...but will not tell them the truth...that their sin has brought them to the brink of destruction.

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- From Chapter 3:1-4, what has happened to their leaders? Instead of watching out for the people of God, instead of being their “shepherds”, they are taking advantage of the people and being “wolves” – tearing them apart.

- From Chapter 3:9-12, who is God holding responsible for the destruction which is coming upon Jerusalem? The leaders and prophets of Israel are responsible for what is coming. They may look religious, smell religious, act religious...but they are really God-haters, because they do not want to do things God’s way.

2. But there are 3 hidden verses in these 2 chapters...embedded jewels of truth and hope. Can you find them? What hope do they give?

- **2:12&13** “I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head.”

Even when things look exceedingly dark for the powerless little group of sheep which are God’s chosen people, the LORD will find a time and a way to gather them together – to put them in a safe place – to go before them into freedom. This is a three-layered promise of

- a. protection during the attack coming from Assyria and Babylon, and
- b. it is a promise of the true Shepherd Who will come (John 10), and
- c. it is a promise of the coming of King Jesus at the very end of the last 7 years – when He rescues His little flock from the armies of the world.

- **3:8** “But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

First, this is a statement by Micah that even in the middle of a whole generation of false leaders and false prophets, the LORD has made sure that there is at least one (Micah himself) who is still speaking the truth.

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Second, this is a prophecy of the One Who would come – Jesus Christ – who also spoke the truth in the middle of a time and place where the truth was being corrupted by those who were supposed to be speaking it.

And third, this is an ongoing picture of the way God works. He always makes sure there is someone speaking the truth. That person may be unpopular, or persecuted, or even silenced. But if he is silenced, then another will rise up – for God always makes sure the truth is spoken.

3. Why do you think Micah “hid” these jewels within his message? Jesus said it best in Matthew 7:6. You don’t take the valuable and lay it before those who would only trample it under. Micah hid it so that the people who wanted to hear the truth would find it. And those who wouldn’t recognize truth if it came up and bit them would just never realize it was there.

APPLICATION:

4. What is always the result of sin?
Punishment for sin. Really? Doesn’t anyone ever “get away with” anything? (Romans 6:23) Never. Sin always has a consequence.
5. What is our “embedded jewel”, even when we are the ones responsible for our own calamities?
Jesus was willing to pay the price. Take the consequence. We are given the gift of being able to choose whether we will accept what He did as the price for our sin, or whether we want to continue to pay the price ourselves. If we choose the second, we are doomed. For it is a price far too high for us to pay. We simply do not have the resources to make it right.

Bonus:

Memorize the embedded jewels found in chapters 2 & 3:

- 2:12&13
- 3:8

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O Little Town of Bethlehem
Micah Chapters 4&5 – Questions

1. Chapter 4 is a detailed picture, from Micah, of what the world will be like when Messiah comes. What will it be like?
 1. (:1&2)
 2. (:3)
 3. (:4)
 4. (:5)
 5. (:6&7)
 6. (:8-13)
2. Now...back it up. Before this huge change in the world, described in Chapter 4, a few things had to happen first. Chapter 5:1-5a is a timeline of what had to happen first. Can you see what that timeline is?
 1. (:1)
 2. (:2)
 3. (:3)
 4. (:4-5a)
3. The rest of Chapter 5 reviews, first in one way, then in another, what Micah has been saying:

You will be changed. From failure to faith.

See if you can see that message in each of these remaining passages:

 - :5b-6
 - :7-9
 - :10-15

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

4. Why couldn't Messiah have been born in Bethlehem, grown to adulthood, and then reigned as the King Micah pictured in chapter 4? Why did He have to leave and then come back?
5. Why couldn't Jesus have avoided the cross?

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6. Micah lived in about 700 BC. He saw then that someday Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It was over 700 years before this event came to pass. What benefit was there in this long wait for Bethlehem?
7. What benefit are we receiving today by the long wait until His second coming?
8. Why do you think Micah wrote chapter 4 first, before chapter 5?

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Micah Chapters 4&5 – Answer Key

1. Chapter 4 is a detailed picture, from Micah, of what the world will be like when Messiah comes. What will it be like?

1. (:1&2)

Jerusalem will once again be looked to by the world as a place where truth can be found. A place where God dwells. A place to turn to when you want to know God.

2. (:3)

There will be no more war. No more implements of war. No more unsolved disputes. Jesus will bring His wisdom to every concern.

3. (:4)

No person will be afraid to live in this world. No locked doors. No crime. God's word will be law.

4. (:5)

All people, especially Israel, will walk through their every-day lives in God's way.

5. (:6&7)

Israel will once again be a strong and healthy nation. God will rule in Jerusalem

6. (:8-13)

Israel will, once again, be the watchtower. The ones who point the way to safety...but, she must "writhe in agony" first!

James Montgomery Boice, in his commentary, The Minor Prophets, says that Micah is employing "shock tactics" here:

"Micah's procedure reminds me of a similar tactic employed once by Donald Grey Barnhouse. In the early days of his ministry he met a man who lived not far from the church to whom he would occasionally speak about salvation. Each time he did this the man would laugh him off, saying that he was not the kind who needed church. He was a member of a lodge and said that if a person lived up to the high principles of that particular lodge he would be all right. The day came when the man was stricken with a serious illness and was not expected to live out the day. Barnhouse went to see him. A member of the man's lodge was already there, on what was called the death-watch,

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the point being that no member of their organization should be allowed to die alone. This death-bed companion was sitting across the room reading a magazine, and Barnhouse had scarcely entered when his replacement came. It was a desperate situation, and it called for a desperate remedy.

Barnhouse sat down by the dying man's bedside. He said, 'You do not mind my staying here a few minutes and watching you, do you? I have wondered what it would mean to die without Christ, and I have known you for several years now as a man who said he did not need Christ but that his lodge obligations were enough. I would like to see a man come to the end of his life that way to see what it is like.'

The stricken man looked at him like a wounded animal and said slowly, 'You.....wouldn't.....mock....a...dying...man...would you?'

Barnhouse then wondered aloud what he would answer when God asked what right he had to enter His holy heaven. Great tears ran down the man's pale, wrinkled cheeks as he looked back in agonized silence. Quickly Barnhouse told him the way of salvation through faith in the merits of Christ. The man replied that his mother had taught him those things as a child but that he had abandoned them. Then, in those moments at the very end of life, the man came back to those truths and to faith. He believed, prayed, and soon asked that the members of his family be brought in to hear his testimony. He asked that his story be told at his funeral, which was a few days later.

Micah employs the same shock tactics. He mocks the people for their unbelief, but not out of cruelty. He speaks in love."

2. Now...back it up. Before this huge change in the world, described in Chapter 4, a few things had to happen first. Chapter 5:1-5a is a timeline of what had to happen first.
 1. (:1) Israel goes into exile, her rulers are humiliated and destroyed
 2. (:2) The True Ruler is born in Bethlehem, lives a perfect life, proves beyond a shadow of doubt that He is Who He says he is, is murdered, and comes back to life
 3. (:3) Those Jews who believe in Him are few – the majority of Israel does not believe. Therefore, they descend into another exile – this one of greater

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duration – it will last until the total number of Jews comes to faith in Him, at the end of the last 7 years.

4. (:4-5a) Then Jesus will come to earth for the 2nd time, will gather His people to Himself, provide a new life for them (as described in Chapter 4), and will be their peace.

3. The rest of Chapter 5 reviews, first in one way, then in another, what Micah has been saying:

You will be changed. From failure to faith.

See if you can see that message in each of these remaining passages:

- 5:5b-6
- 5:7-9
- 5:10-15

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

4. Why couldn't Messiah have been born in Bethlehem, grown to adulthood, and then reigned as the King Micah pictured in chapter 4? Why did He have to leave and then come back?

Because Israel did not receive Him.

5. Why couldn't Jesus have avoided the cross?

Because this was not about only Israel all along. Jesus is the Savior of all the world...it was planned that way long before Israel ever was chosen.

6. Micah lived in about 700 BC. He saw then that someday Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It was over 700 years before this event came to pass. What benefit was there in this long wait for Bethlehem?

We may not know the complete answer to that until we can ask the LORD Himself in heaven. But this we know – there were Jews and Gentiles who would not have had the chance to come to faith in Him unless He came exactly in the right time in God's plan.

7. What benefit are we receiving today by the long wait until His second coming?

Ditto.

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8. Why do you think Micah wrote chapter 4 first, before chapter 5?

Dramatic effect, I'll bet.

Once you see the end of the story, you have pretty well been hooked for the rest.

Once you know the ending is good, you can better endure the hard stuff in the middle.

Once you see Someone has bought your victory, you have a huge desire to know more about Him – to know Him.

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Who is a God Like You?
Micah Chapters 6&7 – Questions

1. (6:1-3) What is the LORD's question for Israel?
2. (6:4&5) What does the LORD ask Israel to remember?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. (6:6&7) What can anyone offer to the LORD to make up for sin?
4. (6:8) What is it the LORD wants?
5. (6:9-16) Can the LORD overlook sin?
6. (7:1-6) What is the condition of those who cannot measure up to the LORD's requirements?
7. (7:7-10) What is Israel's only hope?
8. (7:11-13) Micah reminds them of what?
9. (7:14-15) Micah is praying here to the LORD – what is his request?
10. Who is the Shepherd of Israel? (John 10)
11. (7:16-17) Why will some people suffer when the Shepherd of Israel comes again?
12. (7:18-20) How is the God of Israel different than any of the other "gods" ?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. What was the path of salvation for the Jews?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
14. Is that any different path of salvation for us?



Who is a God Like You?
Micah Chapters 6&7 – Answer Key

1. (6:1-3) What is the LORD's question for Israel?
What have I done to you? They knew that He existed. They knew that He chose them. They knew that He wanted them to live life in His ways (Deut. 6:4-9). But still, they rebelled against Him. What kind of perverse thoughts must be going through their heads? What had He done to them that they have decided to act in this way?

2. (6:4&5) What does the LORD ask Israel to remember?
- a. The escape from Egypt
 - b. The powerful leaders He had given them
 - c. His protection in the face of enemies
 - d. His guidance as they traveled

3. (6:6&7) What can anyone offer to the LORD to make up for sin?
Nothing. The nation of Israel had been thinking...well, even if we sin against the LORD, we can offer sacrifices and make ourselves clean again. But that was not true. The sacrifices which God told Israel to offer were never able to remove sin...they were only able to point to a future time when a perfect sacrifice would be offered. (Hebrews 10:3&4, and Hebrews 9:28)

There is nothing anyone can do to erase the sins he commits.

The only hope for anyone is to accept the gift Jesus Christ offers of sins already being paid for. Accepting a gift is the only possible way to make up for sin. Faith. Believing that the perfect sacrifice was Jesus. Thanking Him for it. Bowing your knee to Him. That's the only hope.

4. (6:8) What is it the LORD wants?
To do good. And to walk with God.
Those two things are what the LORD wants from us.
We are without hope if we try to do them in our own ability.
We can't do good. (sin always wins)
And we can't walk with God (sin keeps us from approaching Him)

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Our only hope is to have our sins removed for us (by faith in Jesus), and then to accept the gift of a being able to walk with (know) God.
On our own merit, we cannot do what the LORD wants.

5. (6:9-16) Can the LORD overlook sin?

No. Sin has to be judged and punished. He can forgive sinners...but the sin has to be dealt with. That's why He became a man and took our punishment for us. Somebody had to. It was either us taking our own punishment, or Him taking it for us. No other choices.

6. (7:1-6) What is the condition of those who cannot measure up to the LORD's requirements?

Pitiful. Empty. Hungry. Dishonored. Unworthy.

7. (7:7-10) What is Israel's only hope?

To wait for a Savior. The promise was that some day One would come who could take care of the sin problem forever. They had to wait for Him. What about those who were waiting for so long...through generation after generation...for the Savior who had not yet come? What hope did they have? They had the same hope we do today. They placed their faith in what the Savior would someday do. We place our faith in what the Savior did do. Either way, salvation comes by faith...taking God at His Word...trusting Him to provide for me what I could not provide for myself.

8. (7:11-13) Micah reminds them of what?

The coming day when the world will be judged...Israel will see their God return victoriously.

9. (7:14-15) Micah is praying here to the LORD – what is his request?

Take care of us, LORD. Just like you have always done. Just like a shepherd takes care of His sheep.

10. Who is the Shepherd of Israel? (John 10)

Jesus proclaimed Himself the Shepherd. If you look especially at John 10:2-5, and verse 11, you see how the Good Shepherd acts. He tenderly calls His sheep. They recognize His voice. They follow Him and trust Him. He lays down His life for them. The people who were listening to Micah had a choice: they could recognize the voice of their Shepherd as they heard the truth the LORD was giving Micah to say...or they could decide to do things their own way. Every person on earth gets a chance to make that choice at some time in their life. When was your time? Have you made that choice yet? Do you hear the voice of

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your Shepherd as you listen to or study the scriptures? Have you responded to Him?

11. (7:16-17) Why will some people suffer when the Shepherd of Israel comes again?

Like it or not. This is just as much a part of the truth as the parts which tell us we have a loving Shepherd. There will come a time when the LORD who is the Shepherd will show us the side of Himself we must fear...the LORD who is the judge.

12. (7:18-20) How is the God of Israel different than any of the other "gods" ?

He not only loves. He not only judges. He also delights to show mercy and pardons sin and forgives sinners. There is no other God who offers forgiveness. A clean slate. A brand new start.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. What was the path of salvation for the Jews?
- Know there is a God
 - Understand the chasm between God and them is caused by their sin
 - Realize God has provided a solution to their sin problem. Messiah (God Himself) was going to pay the price for their sin.
 - Respond. This huge truth demanded a response from them. Did they want a personal relationship with this personal God? Then bow the knee. Accept His gift. Submit to His ways.

14. Is that any different path of salvation for us?

No different at all. The most important question any of us will ever ask and answer is: Have you chosen Him?

So...remember....the book of Micah is full of embedded jewels. Nuggets of truth which, when seen and responded to, can open up the treasure chest full of the true riches of life:

Micah 1:15a "He who is the glory of Israel will come to Adullam."

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Micah 2:13 "One who breaks open will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head."

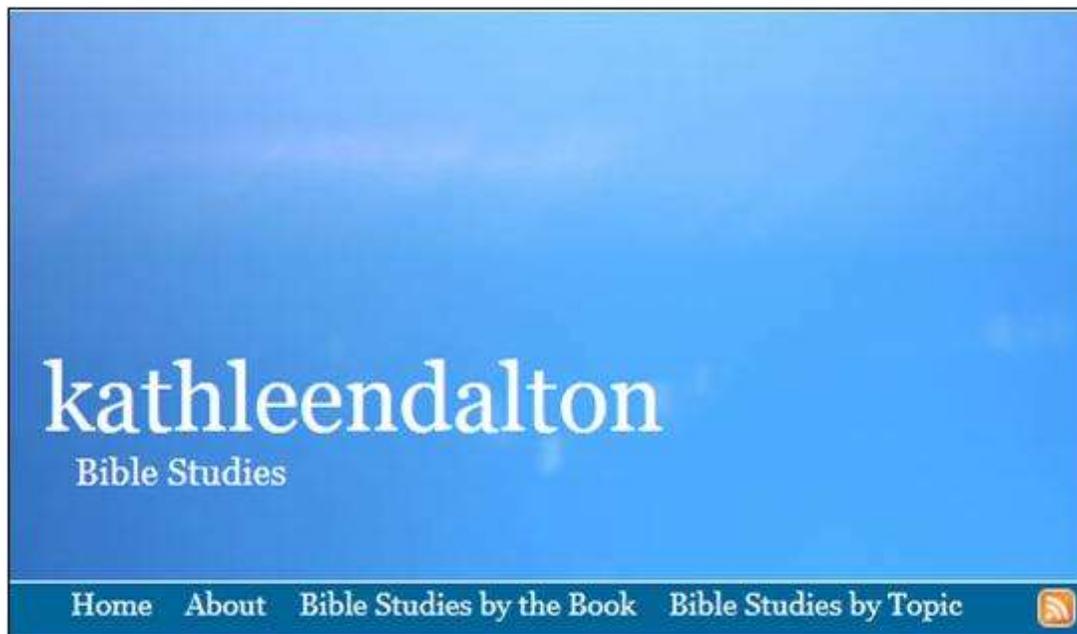
Micah 3:8 "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might."

Micah 4:12 "But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand His plan."

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 7:7 "But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."

Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives...?"



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