

## Micah

*This is part of an ongoing series of short articles designed to help us understand what scripture is and what is **in** each book of scripture. Previous articles can be found at [www.openarms-communityofchrist.org](http://www.openarms-communityofchrist.org).*

Micah appears to have lived about the same time as Isaiah did—a time when the kingdom of Assyria ruled over Judah and Israel was in turmoil because of the king's death which brought the end of a half-century peace to Israel.

The difference between Micah and Isaiah is that Micah—rather than being of noble birth—was a common man. Micah also came from a small village southwest of Jerusalem, rather than living in the capital (Jerusalem) as Isaiah did. So Micah looked at the problems of Jerusalem through different eyes—and prophesied the fall of Jerusalem, which sets him apart from his contemporaries.

Micah's focus is on the need for the “pure” worship of God and for social justice. This is expressed most clearly in a famous quote from Micah 6:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Even though Micah prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem, he also shares the promise of God's forgiveness and hope in a future restoration with this promise:

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised up above the hills.  
People shall stream to it,  
and many nations shall come and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;...”