

MICAH OVERVIEW

© Mark Barry 2009 | visualunit.me | Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use

SUMMARY The twin themes of Micah's prophecy are judgement and hope. On account of Samaria and Jerusalem's covenant unfaithfulness, the Lord God promises to bring judgement on his people through their enemies, Assyria and Babylon. Yet in his covenant faithfulness, God also promises to deliver, gather and care for a remnant of his people, in a restored Zion through his Davidic king. From Micah's prophecy, it's clear that the punishing divine judge, Yahweh, is also the gracious and merciful, shepherd king:

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?" (7:18)

We see the prophecy ultimately fulfilled in the one born in Bethlehem, blessed with divine strength and majesty and whose "origins are from old" (5:2): Jesus, the great Lord, judge, shepherd and king. He alone is the true deliverer of everlasting security and peace for his people (e.g. Matthew 2:6; 12:15-21; John 7; 10:16). For no God is like him.

STRUCTURE After the introductory title (1:1), the book of Micah consists of three cycles of God's *judgement* against his people, including the *evidence* cited for the indictments, before turning to the promise of future *hope* (1-2; 3-5; 6-7). Each cycle is introduced by the refrain to "hear" the word of God (1:2; 3:1 & repeated in 3:9; 6:1).

