



SUMMIT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Four Minor Prophets—Small Books, Big Truths



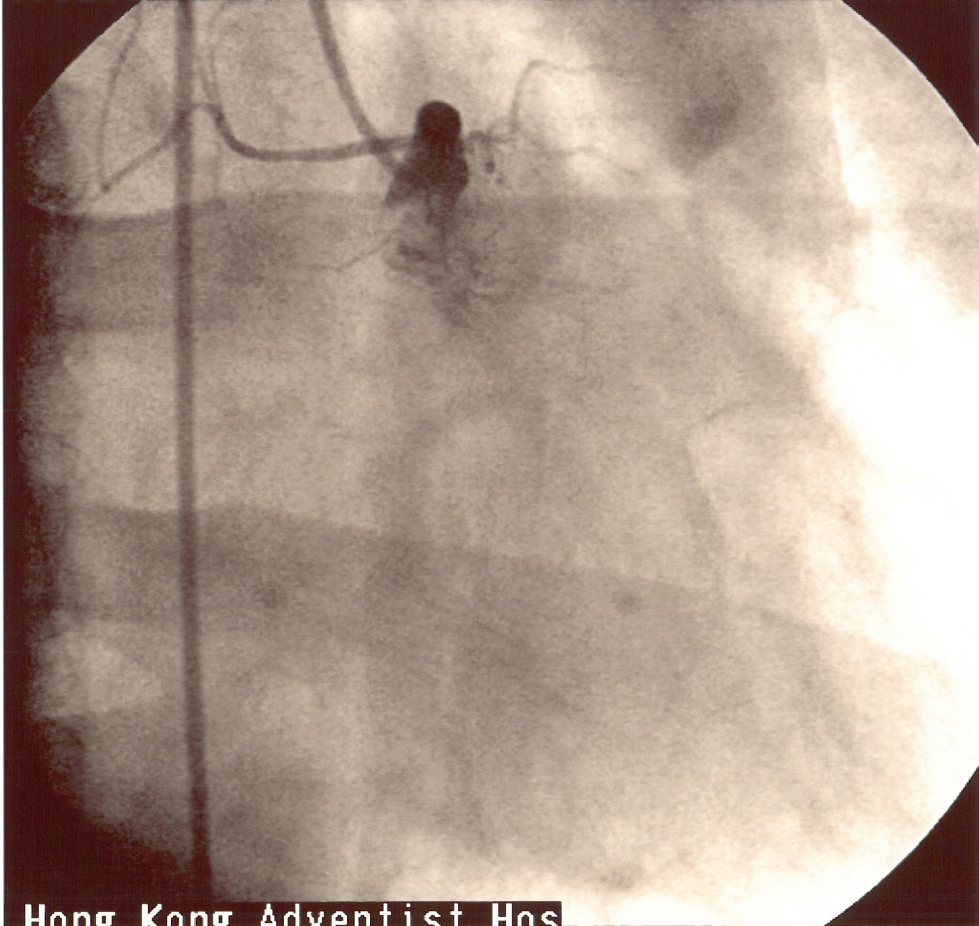


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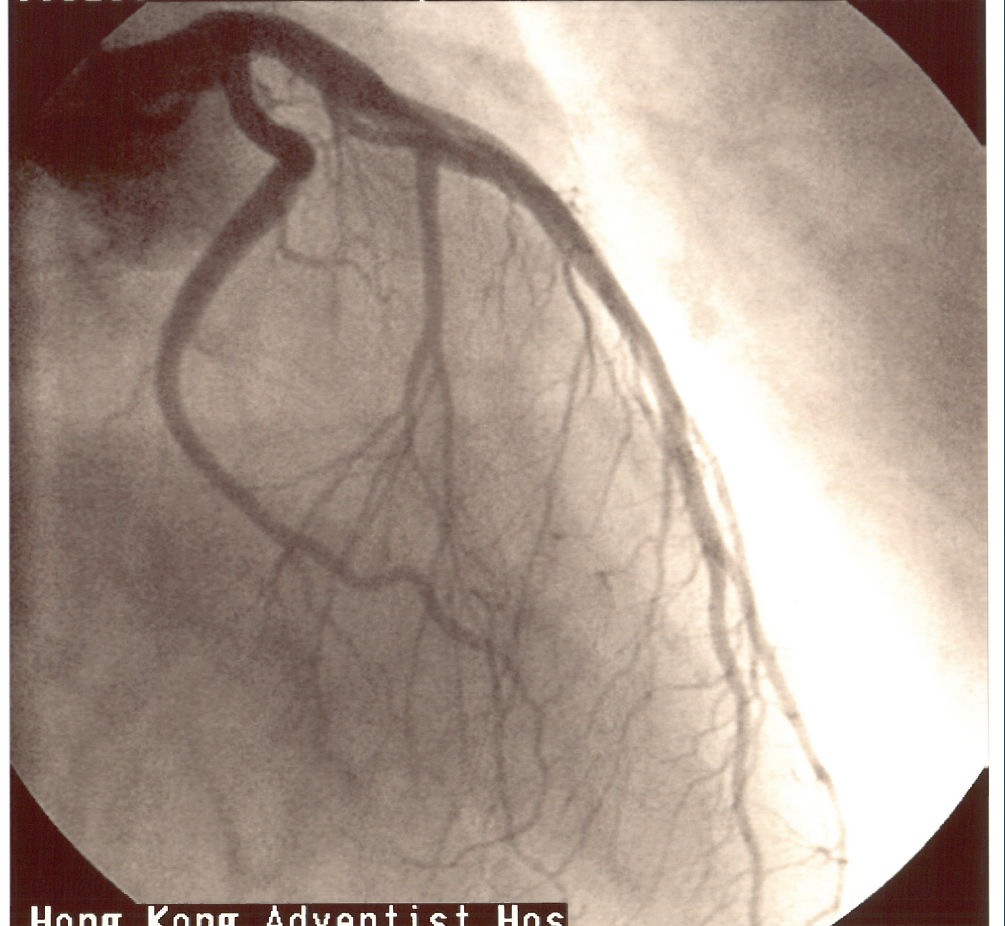
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Micah: Who is like Yahweh?

A prophet from Moresheth (SW Judah) who spoke out against Judah and Israel from 742-710 BC – Pre-Exilic.

Contemporary of Isaiah... Hero of the book of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 26:17-19)

Prophet to the working man in a period of economic prosperity and peace for God's people... outwardly things were awesome but inwardly... NOT GOOD.



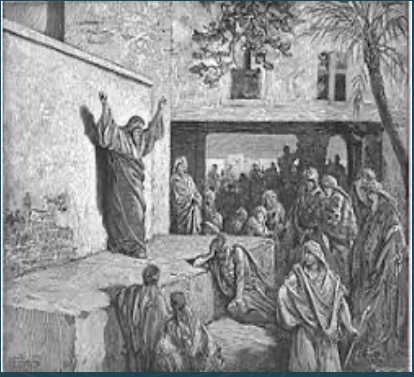
Micah was concerned with personal and social righteousness...

The book has 3 messages that all begin with “Hear”...
Shema...(Deut. 6:4-5) which means to hear, to pay attention to, to respond, to OBEY... in Hebrew language you cannot hear and Not Act or obey... (they have ears to hear but do NOT hear. Psalm 115, Matthew 13:14-38, Mark 8)

3 threads that flow through out the book:

Sin---→ Judgment---→ Hope

Sin is rampant, Judgment MUST happen, But Hope is coming



Micah 6: 6-8

With what shall I come to the Lord
And bow myself before the God on high?

Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings,
With yearling calves?

⁷ Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams,
In ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

The Prophet's response...

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good;

And what does the Lord require of you

But to do justice, to love kindness,

And to walk humbly with your God?



There are a few X-Rays I think we need to ponder on from the prophet and see what they reveal in our hearts...

I. The Lord takes sin very seriously (1:8, 6:12)... God hates sin (2:1) especially among His people and the consequences of God's people sin is

massive... Micah said that when he saw the people's sin he wailed and howled and was so bothered that he gave his message butt naked... The O.T. prophets saw the reality of what was going on in their world... they saw the sin of God's people... they felt the brokenness that sin caused to people, especially the helpless, the marginalized... they felt God's anger and sadness.

When was the last time we saw and felt sin and its consequences and felt moved to ACT... where we had to do something? How do we feel and act toward the injustice in our culture? Do we get fired up as the prophets did, or is our default mode COMFORT... relax?



II. God prefers Obedience rather than our Sacrifice or Service...

6:6-8... they knew they were in sin and so they were coming to the Lord and basically bargaining with him... they were asking, what do you want to make all of this right?

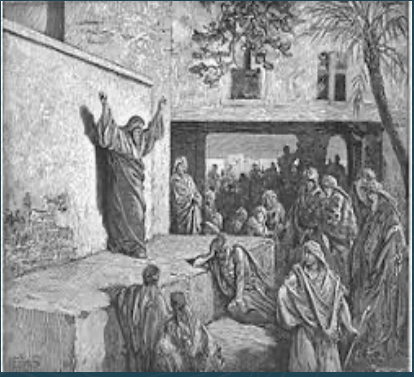
And Micah is saying that the Lord is sick of their sacrifices and service... these are not dealing with the Heart issues... God has already told you what he wants from his people...

“to do Justice”... is not just punishing wrong, but is also treating all people fairly...
creating a society where everyone can flourish

“to love kindness”... to love with a stubborn love, be merciful toward others... remember the love and mercy the Lord has poured on you..

“to walk humbly” with your God... your relationship with God is a gift... you did not earn it

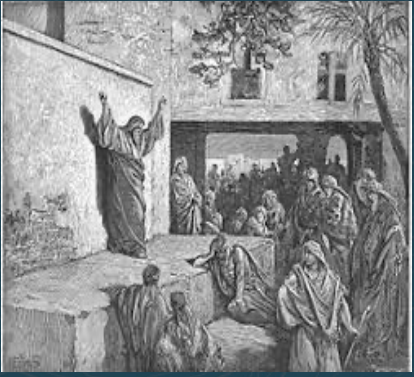
If you live this way, you will stop feeling like you have to bring sacrifices all the time...



What God wants is our heart... He wants us... He wants our lives to be a sacrifice to Him...
Romans 12:1-2... He wants our obedience... NOT our stuff or our works...

SO, how might we be struggling in obeying the Lord today in our lives?

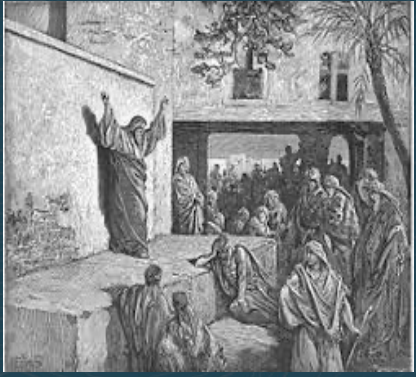
How are we or what are we trying to offer to HIM, instead of offering ourselves?
REPENT... OBEY...



III. God hates it when we are more concerned about our flourishing than the flourishing of others(Micah 6:1-16)

The leaders/men were playing the system... they were unjustly getting treasure (6:10), manipulating the weights and measures of commerce (v. 11); they were using violence and lies for personal gain (v. 12), they were taking the land of the poor (Leviticus 25), they were seeing life JUST as a series of economic or commercial transactions... living totally as consumers... the lenses they saw through were **self-focused**...not others focused...

They were not asking the question... how can I seek what is good for everyone? Or what job can I take that will help the most amount of people to flourish in our culture? BUT instead they were asking “what job will help me flourish... what job will make me feel or look good?”



Jesus said it this way... John 12:24... he who loves his life (serves self) will lose it BUT he who hates his life in this world (serves others) shall keep it to life eternal...

So the question is... Who is flourishing the most in your life... yourself or others?
What would it look like for you to become more others focused?



IV. Who is like Yahweh? 7:18-20 the book ends in HOPE...

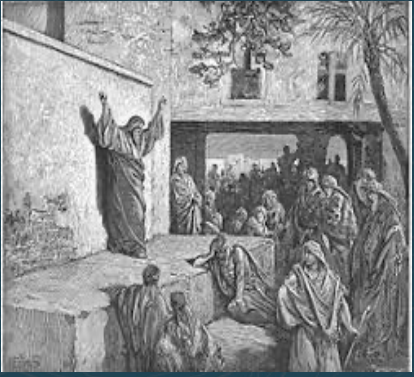
The book begins with Micah's name, which means, who is like Yahweh? And it ends in the passage asking the same question... **Who is like Yahweh?**

The book ends with this unexpected redemption that ultimately comes from a baby born in Bethlehem (5:2)

Micah shouts like a mad man...

“Who is like you God?” You forgive sin... you pass over our failure... you do not hold onto your anger... you take our sins, our failures, our mess ups and you have compassion on us and you throw them into the bottom of the sea... God is always redeeming His people, No matter how far we run, sin, fail... He sends a rescuer for His people...

How will you respond to His mercy and grace today?



Micah: Who is like Yahweh?

Micah 7:7. But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

How is your heart doing today?

How will you respond to God's mercy and grace today?

