

# Micah - Introduction

- According to Micah 1:1 Micah prophesied between the years 750-686 BC under
  - Jotham (750-735 BC),
  - Ahaz (735-715 BC)
  - Hezekiah (729-686 BC)
- It could have been all 64 of those years, but an estimate might be 35 years from 735-700 BC.
- Micah was from the land of Judah from the city of Moresheth-Gath southwest of Jerusalem in the Shephelah (lowlands, foothills) between Azekah and Lachish. Moresheth-Gath is identified today with Tell Judeideh. This site was occupied and active during the days of Micah.
- Hezekiah listened to Micah and led the nation in a national return to the Lord which may have been the cause of Jerusalem's deliverance from the Assyrian invasion led by Sennacherib in 701 BC.
- Jeremiah 26 (which occurs about 100 years later in 608 BC) remembers Micah's words and Hezekiah's response. Some of the elders of Jeremiah's day in 608 BC used Micah's ministry and the positive results as a reason to spare Jeremiah's life and allow his words of warning to be heard:

“Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you...”

Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.”

Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, “**Micah of Moresheth** prophesied in the **days of Hezekiah** king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says:

**“‘Zion will be plowed like a field,  
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,  
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.’** (Micah 3:12)

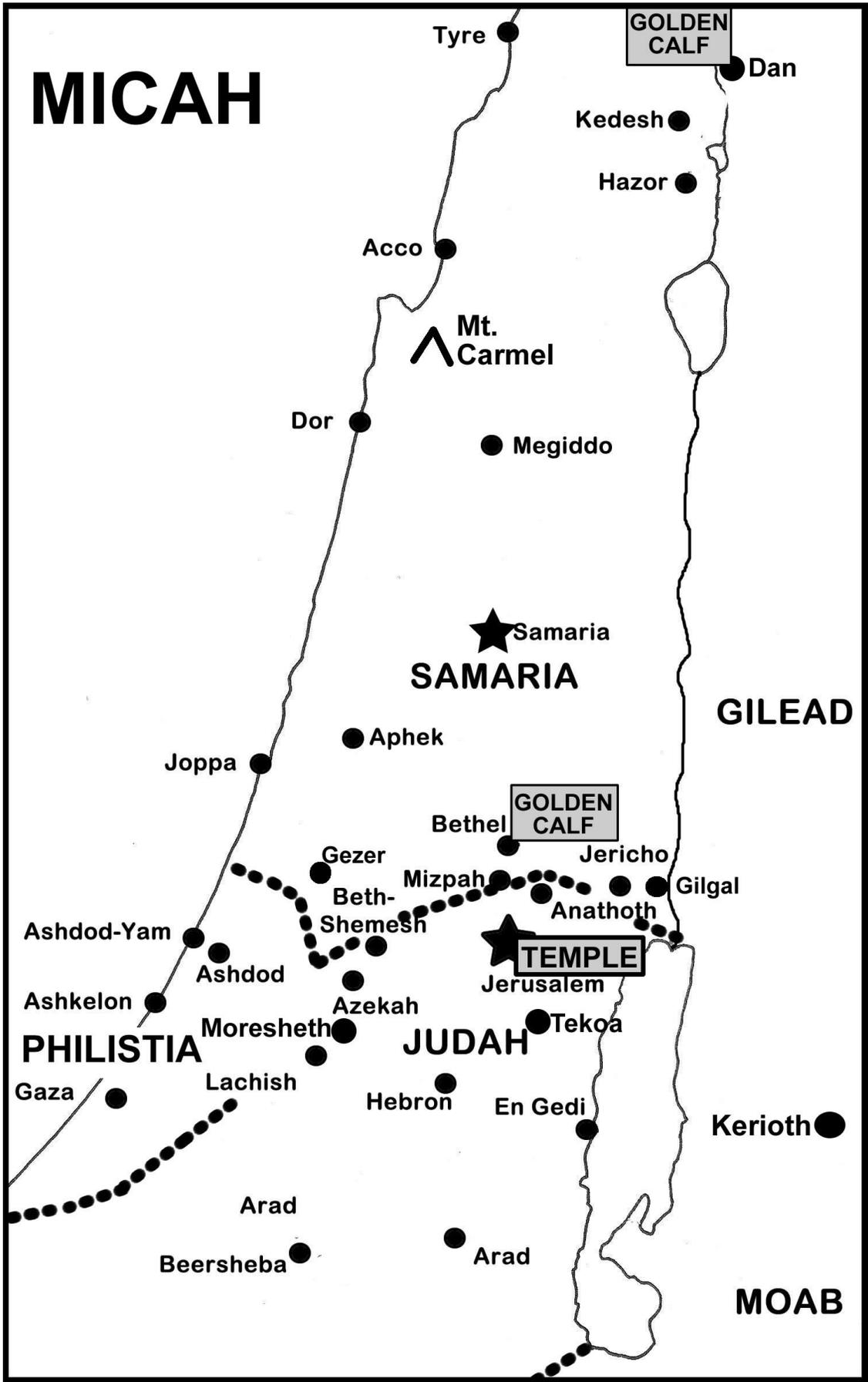
“Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!”

-Jeremiah 26:12-17

- Historical setting:
  - Samaria and Northern Israel has not fallen yet (they will in 722 BC)
  - Israel (northern kingdom) and Aram have formed an alliance to fight the rising return of Assyria.

- Israel and Aram want Judah to join in opposing the Assyrians, but Judah refuses. Israel and Aram threaten Judah. Instead of trusting the Lord the leadership of Judah goes to Assyria for help and in doing so Judah becomes a vassal state of Assyria.
- Israel is arrogant with their prosperity, military success and assumed favor from God. Israel has rejected Amos' ministry.
- Jonah has gone to Nineveh and the Assyrians have repented and engaged in their recovery. Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727) is leading the return of the Assyrian Empire
- The leaders and the wealthy have continued to destroy the middle class (the rural communities, farmers, shepherds, small businesses) with unjust legal practices and unjust business dealings. The middle class is now the poor and the oppressed.
- Religious leaders, the wealthy and political leaders work together to oppress the poor (formerly the middle class) of their privileges and possessions (particularly their land inheritance in their tribe.)
- Religion is not Truth, but the remains of empty covenant rituals combined with the local pagan religions
- Micah speaks of the devastation of the western lowlands (shephelah) of Judah in chapter one. During Micah's ministry this destruction could be one of four invasions:
  - Israel/Aram war (735-734 BC) when Damascus and Samaria fought against Jerusalem in an attempt to install an anti-Assyrian King on Judah throne to replace King Ahaz.
  - Assyria's final attack on Samaria 725-722
  - 712 BC when Assyria was confronting a rebellion in the area. Babylon sent ambassadors to encourage Hezekiah to join an empire wide revolt against the Assyrians. Hezekiah refused to join the rebellion, so when the Assyrians swept down the coast punishing the rebel Philistines (Ashdod) Judah was spared
  - 701 BC when the only city of Judah to survive Assyria's invasion was Jerusalem.
- The fall of Israel in 722 caused a heavy economic and social effect on Judah as many refugees fled south.
- There would have been heavy taxation on the people of Judah to help pay tribute to Assyria. The excavation of the jar handles stamped "lmlk" meaning "of the king" indicate the collection of grain, oil and wine for the king's business. One of the main areas these handles are concentrated in is the Shephelah, Micah's home territory.





Jehoshaphat 872-848	Jehoram 853-841	Ahaziah 841-835 Athaliah 841-835	Joash 835-796	Amaziah 796-767	Uzziah 767-740	Jotham 750-735	Ahaz 735-715	Hezekiah 715-686	Manasseh 697-642	Amon 642-640	Josiah 640-609
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Omri 885-874	Ahaziah 874-853	Joram 853-841	Jehu 841-814	Jehoahaz 814-798	Jehoiash 798-782	Menahem 752-742	Pekahiah 742-740	Hoshea 731-721	Shalmaneser V 727-722	Sennacherib 705-681	Esarhaddon 681-669	Assurbanipal 669-631	Sin-shar-ishkun 627-612	Ashur-etil-ilani 631-627
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**JONAH**  
"borders will expand"  
(2Kg. 14:25)

**AMOS**  
"borders will be lost"  
(Am. 6:13-14)

**JONAH**  
goes to NINEVEH

**MICAH**  
750-686

**HOSEA**  
740

- Son of Sargon  
- Invaded Judah,  
destroyed strongholds  
701, threatens Jerusalem  
and Hezekiah  
- Defeated by the Lord, Is. 36  
- Assassinated by a son. But,  
another son, Esarhaddon, came  
to Nineveh from the West to  
defeat brothers, secure throne,  
Isaiah 37:37-38

- Son of Ashurbanipal  
- Assyrian Empire unraveling  
- Threats came from  
Cimmerians, Scythians,  
Persians, Medes,  
Babylonians, Chaldeans  
- Babylon is rising  
- 623, Nabopolassar takes  
Babylon from Assyria  
- 619, Nabopolassar takes  
Nippur  
- 616, Scythians take Assyria  
- 612, Nineveh falls

**850**  
BC

**800**  
BC

**750**  
BC

**700**  
BC

**650**  
BC

**600**  
BC

Shammu-ramat  
811-808

**REVOLT**

**ISRAEL**  
falls  
722

**NAHUM**  
663-654

Sin-shumu-lishir  
627

Shalmaneser III  
859-824

- the old Assyrian Empire reached its height under Shalmaneser who extended the empire to the Mediterranean Sea, into modern Turkey and south into Chaldea

Shamshi-Adad V  
824-811

Adad-nirari III  
811-783

Shalmaneser IV  
783-773

Ashur-Dan III  
773-755

Ashur-nirari V  
755-745

Tiglath-Pileser III  
745-727

Sargon II  
722-705

Sennacherib  
705-681

Esarhaddon  
681-669

Ashurbanipal  
669-631

Sin-shar-ishkun  
627-612

Ashur-etil-ilani  
631-627

- Began to reign as a child (with help of his mother Shammu-ramat) after his father Shamshi-Adad V died. - Three of his sons will reign after him. All weak kings.  
- Shalmaneser IV  
- Ashur-Dan III  
- Ashur-nirari V  
- "Deliverer" for Israel of 2 Kings 13:5, Defeated Aram; Ruled Damascus

- Son of Adad-nirari III  
- Reign filled with trouble/hardships  
- Power was hindered by court dignitaries  
- Commander-in-chief Shamshi-ilu revolted  
- Plague devastated Nineveh in 765  
- Military too weak to march in 764  
- Revolt broke out in 763 and continued until 759  
- 2nd Plague struck in 759  
- Economic depression due to inflation, loss of manpower and trade  
- 2 Kg. 15:29, defeated Pekah

- 745, seized throne, civil war  
- Introduced advances in social, military, political  
- Conquered to N, S, W, E, SW and NW  
- Used deportation to prevent revolts, including Israel in 732  
- 2Kg. 15:19, tribute from Israel King Menahem  
- 2 Kg. 15:29, defeated Pekah

- Also, son of Tiglath  
- Put down rebellions  
- Finished conquering and deportation of Israel  
- 720, Maruduk-apla-iddina of Babylon in battle  
- 711, Isaiah 20:1, the "Tartan came into Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him."  
- 710, conquered kingdom of Babylon

- Cruel and brutal in his Assyrian images  
- 607, defeated Egypt  
- Ezra 4:10, "The rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapar (or, Ashurbanipal) deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River."  
- His library in Nineveh has been recovered

- Son of Ashurbanipal  
- Missing records for much of reign  
- Overthrown by one of his Generals Sin-shumu-lishir

**Egypt**

**Babylon**

**Syria**

**Assyria**

**Israel**

**Judah**

**PROPHET**

703 BC - **Marduk-apla-iddina** rebels against Assyria and  
 702 - Babylon captured by Semnacherib  
 701 - Semnacherib moves into Judah

**ASSYRIA RULES BABYLON**

**Nabopolassar**  
 -626 Assyria takes control Babylon  
 -612 Assyria falls from Semnacherib of Assyria  
 -612 look control of Nineveh

**Hazael** - Eliah to anoint Hazael, 1 Kings 19:15  
 (842-796) - First king of Israel and Abaziah of Judah at Ramoth-Gilead  
 - Drove the kingdom of Israel to its decline  
 - Elected Tal Dan inscription (796-792)

**Rezin**  
 (784-744)  
 - 724, Rebels against Tiglath-Pileser  
 - 722, Tiglath-Pileser takes Damascus

**Adad-nirari III** - 772-763 BC  
 - 1st weak king of Assyria's decline  
 - Subjugated Damascus

**Shalmaneser IV** - 753-745 BC  
 - 2nd weak king of decline  
 - 763 BC, solar eclipse

**Ashur-Dan III** - 745-743 BC  
 - 3rd weak king of decline

**Ashur-nirari V** - 743-722 BC  
 - 722, Tiglath-Pileser takes Damascus

**Tiglath-Pileser III** - 745-727 BC  
 - Defeated Israel 722 BC  
 - Defeated Israel 722

**Sargon II** - 722-705 BC  
 - Invaded Judah  
 - Defeated Lachish 701 BC  
 - Threatened Hezekiah

**Semnacherib** - 705-701 BC  
 - Esarhaddon (681-669)  
 - Ashurbanipal (685-631, or 677)  
 - Ashur-etiliani (631-627)  
 - Sin-shar-ishkun (627-612)  
 - Nineveh falls

**Lehu** (841-814)  
**Jehoshaphat** (843-798)  
**Jehoahaz** (814-798)

**Jehoshaphat** (843-798)  
**Amaziah** (796-767)  
**Uzziah** (792-740)

**Jotham** (750-735)  
**Ahaz** (735-715)  
**Hezekiah** (715-686)  
**Manasseh** (697-642)  
**Amon** (642-640)  
**Josiah** (640-609)

**Manahem** (752-742)  
**Pekah** (740-732)  
**Hoshea** (731-721)

**Zachariah** (753)  
**Shallum** (752)  
**Pekahiah** (742-740)

**AMOS** 760-754  
**JONAH** 759

**MICAH** 750-686  
**ISAIAH** 740-681  
**HOSEA** 740

**NAHUM** 663-654  
**ZEPHANIAH** 630  
**HABAKKUK** 609-598

**JEREMIAH** 627-580