

to Judah to hear God. It seems the fall of Samaria is imminent and the coalitions of the past few years have wrecked the Judaeen/Israelite relationships beyond repair. Judah herself appears torn with factionalism and dissent.

Many modern scholars have felt the predictions of blessing and cursing in Micah were inconsistent and required a multiplicity of authors (2:12-13 in contrast with 2:1-11, for example and 4:1-7 in contrast with 3:8-12). But a close study of the totality of the prophetic literature reveals that this is a consistent method for the prophets. The ideology behind it is fairly clear: the prophecies of judgment are to issue in repentance and the fruit of this is seen in the prophesied blessings. All condemnation with no hope of reward would indeed be the difficult nature of prophecy. Micah is largely poetic in the forms used by the prophets

I failed to give a key word for Micah in the opening line...but it is probably "God's Societal Order." The inconsistencies of the syllabus are, I fear, unmatched in modern educational cycles.

An Outline of Micah is on this order:

- I. Hear the message 1:2 -2:13
- II. Hear now 3:1-5:15
- III. Hear ye 6:1 --7:20

This will give you an idea of the hortatory style of the prophet and we can fill this outline out just a bit with the following:

- I. The call to the Nation 1:1-2:13
  - A. Samaria's incurable wound 1:1-9
  - B. The sins of Judah 1:10--2:3
  - C. False prophet ministry 2:4-11
  - D. Diversified prophecies of blessing 2:12-13
- II. The call to the leaders of the people 3:1-5:15
  - A. The ruin of Israel's culture 3:1-7
  - B. The prophetic states of Judah 3:8-5:1
  - C. The coming ruler 5:2-8
  - D. The end of Idolatry 5:9-15
- III. The Call to all who will hear 6:1--7:20
  - A. The controversy 6:1-9
  - B. Israel's false order 6:10-7:7
  - C. A word of admonition and invitation 7:8-20

This outline does not show all the changes in idea specific but does give the major thrust changes in idea general.

In the framework of redemptive history Micah offers some interesting aspects with the famous citation of 6:8.. "What does the Lord require of thee..." and the covenantal promise of complete eventual deliverance in 7:19... "thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." With the other prophets he keeps pace of the truth that although the Hebrew peoples are chosen of God, they cannot randomly ignore God's claims on them and their society. Truth is the mark of those who are God's and he does not expect miracles of them..-only that they will honor His truth and his name. The emphasis in Micah continues to be on truth, justice, and grace. These are the means whereby God reaches to honor the covenant and restore His own.