

Who Is Like Micah's God?

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For many people, the book of Micah is the favorite of the minor prophets. It is one of the most remarkable books as to style. If you appreciate beautiful language, if you appreciate poetry, and if you appreciate literature, you will appreciate Micah. Just reading the book, Micah's writing style is pungent, and personal. Micah was to the point, touching, and tender. He was realistic, no matter the topic he was writing about, and described his thoughts in a simple, down to earth way. Anyone wanting to teach their children how to write would do well in having them study Micah's style. There is an exquisite beauty about this book which combines God's infinite tenderness with His judgments. There are several famous passages which are familiar to the average Christian, although he may not recognize them as coming from Micah. Through the gloom of impending judgment, Micah saw clearly the coming glory of the redemption of Israel, and that makes this a remarkable book. Above all, his descriptions of God are off the charts, moving and powerful.

Micah pronounced judgment on Samaria in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and on Jerusalem in Southern Kingdom. These centers influenced the people of those nations. These were the urban problems that sound very much like our present-day problems. Micah condemned violence, corruption, robbery, covetousness, gross materialism, spiritual bankruptcy, and illicit sex and the mistreatment of the poor in general. For a person from the country, Micah could see how sin was much more prevalent in the cities.

But it is his writing about God that I find most interesting. Notice, *"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old."* (Micah 7:18-20.) If there were nothing else written in the book, these three verses would make the book of immense value. Who is a God like You?

Who is a God like You when it comes to judging? We see the picture of God coming out of His place to earth, the mountains melting under His feet as He walks on them, because of the transgressions of the people. He calls them to trial in 6:1-5 demanding them to make their case why they didn't follow His ways. Oh, the majesty of the great God we serve. Who is like Him?

But as awesome as God's judgment is, His willingness to save is all throughout the book. His goodness is on display. Even in the trial scene above, God made His own case by reminding the sinful people of His goodness toward them. What was their excuse. What is ours? But judgment is painful to God. He laments and wails at it. And as awesome as God's judgment is, His pardoning of iniquity is even greater. God sent Messiah to provide a way of salvation and all who seek it find a God ready to forgive. They find a God who delights in love. They find a God who has compassion. This book shows us that God hates sin but He love the sinner. All repenting and obedient souls will have their sins removed and cast into the sea. Who is a God like you, O Lord!