



IN &  
OUT®

*English Standard Version*

*Understanding  
the Anger  
of God*

A STUDY OF MICAH, NAHUM, AND HABAKKUK

IN AND OUT®  
*English Standard Version*  
KINGS AND PROPHET SERIES  
Course 9  
UNDERSTANDING THE ANGER OF GOD  
A STUDY OF MICAH, NAHUM, AND HABAKKUK

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## BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

Welcome to our study of Micah, Nahum and Habakkuk—books probably not among your favorites and yet you’ve chosen to study them. We commend you for this!

One of the greatest benefits of studying the Old Testament inductively is coming to know and understand God in a way you can never know Him otherwise. Studying the Prophets, Beloved, is one way you can get this unique understanding.

When we listen to the Prophets, we catch God’s heart, sense His passion, experience His holiness, and come to understand His fidelity to His character and to the words which go forth from His mouth. This is something you’ll never experience fully if you study the New Testament alone. In the Old Testament we uniquely meet God’s holiness . . . and stand in awe!

The prophets Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk speak of God’s holy indignation and wrath. Nahum speaks of God’s burning anger, an emotion few want to attribute to God. Anger seems incongruous with love—if God is love, how can He be angry? And if He’s angry, how can He express it without contradicting His love?

These valid questions can’t be resolved without studying the *whole* counsel of God. Therefore we commend you for choosing to study the ninth of our ten-course study in the Kings and Prophets Series, *Understanding the Anger of God*. Precept designed its Kings and Prophets Series to give you a full picture of the events in Israel’s history leading up to the Exile.

While we want you to have the full picture of these times, we also want you to be able to study the writings of the Prophets independently from their historical counterparts. This is why there are ten separate courses. None of them demand an overwhelming commitment, which should encourage newcomers to join you without hesitation.

That brings me to a word of exhortation, Beloved. In these last days we need to be about our Father’s business recruiting others to study God’s Word for themselves so they won’t be “carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:13-14). We, the Church, need to grow up, but this won’t happen apart from diligent study on the part of every true child of God (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:14). To ignore the Word of God is to ignore God, which is the height of pride. The Bible is *the Word* of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

The content of each book of the Bible is critical to our lives; otherwise, God would not have included it in His eternal Word.



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*Understanding the Anger of God*  
*Before You Begin*

You're doing what you ought to be doing and we're proud of you for disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness, for adding to your faith, knowledge—the knowledge of the one and only true God, His ways, His history, His commandments, His ordinances and precepts for life. It's our prayer that you will see how critically relevant Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk are to our times and to your life so that you'll confidently understand the righteous anger of God, order your life accordingly, and help others to know truth and respect Him.

How we look forward to your stories about how God uses these courses to teach you more of Who He is, to conform you more into His Son's image, and to prepare you to be the vessel of righteousness He desires to use for the furtherance of His kingdom. And how we would love to see you face-to-face at one of our training workshops, study courses, tours, or conferences!

I am so proud of you, and humbled to help write these studies for you, Beloved of God,

Kay Arthur for all the Precept Staff



## **Micah Overview**

**In the midst of darkness there is always light, because God is always God.**

**In the midst of despair there is always hope, because God is the God of hope.**

**In the midst of corruption there is always the Word of the Lord, the message of truth, because God is not silent.**

**Who is like Jehovah?**

TAKING  
IT IN

God wants you to understand this book. Micah is important or God would not have included it in His Holy Book. Now since the words you are about to study are God's words, we urge you to begin your study each day asking the Father to open the eyes of your understanding so that you will see wonderful truths from His Word. Psalm 119:173 is a good prayer to begin with: "Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts."

1. Read Micah watching for and recording the following things:
  - a. any clues to the time of writing, who it was delivered to, and why it was delivered.







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***Understanding the Anger of God***

*Lesson 1, Micah Overview*

- b. Do any of the “hears” seem to be part of the same message—simply a means of calling the same people to attention?
  - c. What “hears” seem to start a new message? Put a star or check by these on the list you made in “a.”
  - d. Now taking what you observed, how many messages do you believe Micah delivered? List them. Include where they begin and where they end—chapter and verse. Writing this out will be good for you.
- 
3. Read your Observation Worksheets of Micah 1 and 2 and color-code *Samaria* in one color and *Jerusalem* in another. Do not mark synonyms or pronouns at this point. We’ll do them later. Reading aloud will help you remember what Micah is about; you’ll hear it in your mind.

Now list what you learned from marking “Samaria” and “Jerusalem.” There’s not much, but what there is will give you a big picture. We’ll fill in more important details later as we study the messages one by one.

Samaria	Jerusalem



*Understanding the Anger of God*

*Lesson 1, Micah Overview*

4. By now you have observed that there are three messages in Micah and they concern Samaria and Jerusalem. The first message is covered in chapters 1 and 2. This will be the focus for the remainder of our study time this week.
  - a. Read Micah 1 and mark every pronoun for *Samaria* with the same color you marked *Samaria*. Add to your list everything you learned from marking Samaria.
  - b. Now read Micah 1 again.
    - 1) Mark references to *God*.<sup>\*</sup> You can do this any way you want, but it's good to choose a color to represent God.

<sup>\*</sup>On the back of this workbook, you'll find a Key Word Bookmark with marking suggestions for some words frequently used in the Bible. An asterisk [\*] indicates words from this list.
    - 2) Mark synonyms and pronouns that refer to *Jerusalem*. Add to your list what you learn from marking these references.
5. We want to observe Micah's first message as a whole.
  - a. As you observe chapters 1 and 2, mark words pertinent to the message—words God used because He doesn't want you to miss His point. Mark key words in a distinctive way, color, or color combination. This will help you readily spot them in the text.

On the blank side of the Key Word Bookmark, list the following words and mark them the way you will throughout Micah.

- 1) *sin*,<sup>\*</sup> *evil*, *iniquity*, *uncleanness*, *wickedness*
- 2) *disaster*
- 3) *destruction* (*destroyed*, *destroy*)
- 4) *woe* (Whenever you find *woe* in the Word of God, mark it in a distinctive way. There are important warnings in God's woes.)
- 5) *the Spirit of the Lord*—Mark it as you do the *Holy Spirit*.<sup>\*</sup>
- 6) *remnant*<sup>\*</sup>
- 7) time references.<sup>\*</sup> Understanding the “when's” of events is critical in interpretation.
- 8) geographical locations.<sup>\*</sup> See if you can locate these places on the “Cities of Micah and Habakkuk” map in the Appendix.



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***Understanding the Anger of God***

*Lesson 1, Micah Overview*

- b. Now read your Observation Worksheets on Micah 1 and 2, and using a pencil, divide these chapters into paragraphs according to their themes. Write down what's happening in each paragraph in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.
- c. Record the main theme of Micah 1 and 2 on the Observation Worksheets and on the "Micah at a Glance" chart in the Appendix.
- d. Who does Micah address his first message to, and what does he want them to know according to verses 3 and 4?
  
- e. Do you think this message has any significance to people in other times? If so, what?
  
- f. How does this first call to "hear" end? Who does it pertain to? What will happen, and to whom?



- g. What do you learn about Micah in chapter 1? What must he do and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- h. One of the key words you marked was “disaster.” Read Micah 1:12.
  - 1) How far did the disaster reach?
  
  
  
  - 2) Look at the “Cities of Micah and Habakkuk” map and note the border line between Samaria and Jerusalem.
  
- 6. Read Micah 2.
  - a. Review your paragraph themes.
  
  - b. What do you learn from marking references to “sin” (iniquity, evil, uncleanness, wickedness) and specific sins? Who is sinning? What are they doing? What will happen to them? Who will do it?





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***Understanding the Anger of God***

*Lesson 1, Micah Overview*

3. What do you think about the latter part of 2:7: “Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly”? How can you apply this verse to your life? How could it affect your choices? What could it keep you from?

*We rejoice over the privilege of studying God’s Word with you, faithful one.*



## MICAH 1

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

THE word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

- 2 Hear, you peoples, all of you;  
pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it,  
and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you,  
the Lord from his holy temple.
- 3 For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place,  
and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.
- 4 And the mountains will melt under him,  
and the valleys will split open,  
like wax before the fire,  
like waters poured down a steep place.
- 5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob  
and for the sins of the house of Israel.  
What is the transgression of Jacob?  
Is it not Samaria?  
And what is the high place of Judah?  
Is it not Jerusalem?
- 6 Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country,  
a place for planting vineyards,  
and I will pour down her stones into the valley  
and uncover her foundations.
- 7 All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces,  
all her wages shall be burned with fire,  
and all her idols I will lay waste,



for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them,  
and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.

8 For this I will lament and wail;  
I will go stripped and naked;  
I will make lamentation like the jackals,  
and mourning like the ostriches.

9 For her wound is incurable,  
and it has come to Judah;  
it has reached to the gate of my people,  
to Jerusalem.

10 Tell it not in Gath;  
weep not at all;  
in Beth-le-aphrah  
roll yourselves in the dust.

11 Pass on your way,  
inhabitants of Shaphir,  
in nakedness and shame;  
the inhabitants of Zaanan  
do not come out;  
the lamentation of Beth-ezel  
shall take away from you its standing place.

12 For the inhabitants of Maroth  
wait anxiously for good,  
because disaster has come down from the LORD  
to the gate of Jerusalem.

13 Harness the steeds to the chariots,  
inhabitants of Lachish;  
it was the beginning of sin  
to the daughter of Zion,  
for in you were found  
the transgressions of Israel.





- 14      Therefore you shall give parting gifts  
            to Moresheth-gath;  
            the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing  
            to the kings of Israel.
- 15      I will again bring a conqueror to you,  
            inhabitants of Mareshah;  
            the glory of Israel  
            shall come to Adullam.
- 16      Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair,  
            for the children of your delight;  
            make yourselves as bald as the eagle,  
            for they shall go from you into exile.





## MICAH 2

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- WOE to those who devise wickedness  
and work evil on their beds!  
When the morning dawns, they perform it,  
because it is in the power of their hand.
- 2 They covet fields and seize them,  
and houses, and take them away;  
they oppress a man and his house,  
a man and his inheritance.
- 3 Therefore thus says the LORD:  
behold, against this family I am devising disaster,  
from which you cannot remove your necks,  
and you shall not walk haughtily,  
for it will be a time of disaster.
- 4 In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you  
and moan bitterly,  
and say, “We are utterly ruined;  
he changes the portion of my people;  
how he removes it from me!  
To an apostate he allots our fields.”
- 5 Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot  
in the assembly of the LORD.
- 6 “Do not preach”—thus they preach—  
“one should not preach of such things;  
disgrace will not overtake us.”



- 7 Should this be said, O house of Jacob?  
Has the LORD grown impatient?  
Are these his deeds?  
Do not my words do good  
to him who walks uprightly?
- 8 But lately my people have risen up as an enemy;  
you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly  
with no thought of war.
- 9 The women of my people you drive out  
from their delightful houses;  
from their young children you take away  
my splendor forever.
- 10 Arise and go,  
for this is no place to rest,  
because of uncleanness that destroys  
with a grievous destruction.
- 11 If a man should go about and utter wind and lies,  
saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,"  
he would be the preacher for this people!
- 12 I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob;  
I will gather the remnant of Israel;  
I will set them together  
like sheep in a fold,  
like a flock in its pasture,  
a noisy multitude of men.
- 13 He who opens the breach goes up before them;  
they break through and pass the gate,  
going out by it.  
Their king passes on before them,  
the LORD at their head.



## MICAH 3

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

AND I said:

Hear, you heads of Jacob  
and rulers of the house of Israel!

Is it not for you to know justice?—

- 2 you who hate the good and love the evil,  
who tear the skin from off my people  
and their flesh from off their bones,  
3 who eat the flesh of my people,  
and flay their skin from off them,  
and break their bones in pieces  
and chop them up like meat in a pot,  
like flesh in a cauldron.

- 4 Then they will cry to the LORD,  
but he will not answer them;  
he will hide his face from them at that time,  
because they have made their deeds evil.

- 5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who cry “Peace”  
when they have something to eat,  
but declare war against him  
who puts nothing into their mouths.

- 6 Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without divination.  
The sun shall go down on the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;



- 7 the seers shall be disgraced,  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.
- 8 But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the Spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.
- 9 Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob  
and rulers of the house of Israel,  
who detest justice  
and make crooked all that is straight,
- 10 who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with iniquity.
- 11 Its heads give judgment for a bribe;  
its priests teach for a price;  
its prophets practice divination for money;  
yet they lean on the LORD and say,  
“Is not the LORD in the midst of us?  
No disaster shall come upon us.”
- 12 Therefore because of you  
Zion shall be plowed as a field;  
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,  
and the mountain of the house a wooded height.



## MICAH 4

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- IT shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,  
2 and many nations shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
3 He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide for strong nations far away;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;  
4 but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.  
5 For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever.



- 6 In that day, declares the LORD,  
I will assemble the lame  
and gather those who have been driven away  
and those whom I have afflicted;
- 7 and the lame I will make the remnant,  
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;  
and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion  
from this time forth and forevermore.
- 8 And you, O tower of the flock,  
hill of the daughter of Zion,  
to you shall it come,  
the former dominion shall come,  
kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.
- 9 Now why do you cry aloud?  
Is there no king in you?  
Has your counselor perished,  
that pain seized you like a woman in labor?
- 10 Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion,  
like a woman in labor,  
for now you shall go out from the city  
and dwell in the open country;  
you shall go to Babylon.  
There you shall be rescued;  
there the LORD will redeem you  
from the hand of your enemies.
- 11 Now many nations  
are assembled against you,  
saying, "Let her be defiled,  
and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."





- 12 But they do not know  
the thoughts of the LORD;  
they do not understand his plan,  
that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.
- 13 Arise and thresh,  
O daughter of Zion,  
for I will make your horn iron,  
and I will make your hoofs bronze;  
you shall beat in pieces many peoples;  
and shall devote their gain to the LORD,  
their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.





## MICAH 5

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- NOW muster your troops, O daughter of troops;  
siege is laid against us;  
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel  
on the cheek.
- 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.
- 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.
- 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.
- 5 And he shall be their peace.
- When the Assyrian comes into our land  
and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
and eight princes of men;
- 6 they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,  
and the land of Nimrod at its entrances;  
and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian



when he comes into our land  
and treads within our border.

7 Then the remnant of Jacob shall be  
in the midst of many peoples  
like dew from the LORD,  
like showers on the grass,  
which delay not for a man  
nor wait for the children of man.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations,  
in the midst of many peoples,  
like a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,  
which, when it goes through, treads down  
and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.

9 Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries,  
and all your enemies shall be cut off.

10 And in that day, declares the LORD,  
I will cut off your horses from among you  
and will destroy your chariots;

11 and I will cut off the cities of your land  
and throw down all your strongholds;

12 and I will cut off sorceries from your hand,  
and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;

13 and I will cut off your carved images  
and your pillars from among you,  
and you shall bow down no more  
to the work of your hands;

14 and I will root out your Asherah images from among you  
and destroy your cities.

15 And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance  
on the nations that did not obey.



## MICAH 6

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

HEAR what the LORD says:

- Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.
- 2 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.
- 3 “O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 “For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.
- 5 “O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”
- 6 “With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?
- 7 “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”



- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?
- 9 The voice of the LORD cries to the city—  
and it is sound wisdom to fear your name:  
“Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!
- 10 “Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness  
in the house of the wicked,  
and the scant measure that is accursed?
- 11 “Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales  
and with a bag of deceitful weights?
- 12 “Your rich men are full of violence;  
your inhabitants speak lies,  
and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.
- 13 “Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow,  
making you desolate because of your sins.
- 14 “You shall eat, but not be satisfied,  
and there shall be hunger within you;  
you shall put away, but not preserve,  
and what you preserve I will give to the sword.
- 15 “You shall sow, but not reap;  
you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil;  
you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.
- 16 “For you have kept the statutes of Omri,  
and all the works of the house of Ahab;  
and you have walked in their counsels,  
that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing;  
so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”



## MICAH 7

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

WOE is me! For I have become

as when the summer fruit has been gathered,  
as when the grapes have been gleaned:

there is no cluster to eat,  
no first-ripe fig that my soul desires.

2 The godly has perished from the earth,  
and there is no one upright among mankind;  
they all lie in wait for blood,  
and each hunts the other with a net.

3 Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well;  
the prince and the judge ask for a bribe,  
and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul;  
thus they weave it together.

4 The best of them is like a brier,  
the most upright of them a thorn hedge.  
The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come;  
now their confusion is at hand.

5 Put no trust in a neighbor;  
have no confidence in a friend;  
guard the doors of your mouth

from her who lies in your arms;

6 for the son treats the father with contempt,  
the daughter rises up against her mother,  
the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
a man's enemies are the men of his own house.



- 7 But as for me, I will look to the LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation;  
my God will hear me.
- 8 Rejoice not over me, O my enemy;  
when I fall, I shall rise;  
when I sit in darkness,  
the LORD will be a light to me.
- 9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD  
because I have sinned against him,  
until he pleads my cause  
and executes judgment for me.  
He will bring me out to the light;  
I shall look upon his vindication.
- 10 Then my enemy will see,  
and shame will cover her who said to me,  
“Where is the LORD your God?”  
My eyes will look upon her;  
now she will be trampled down  
like the mire of the streets.
- 11 A day for the building of your walls!  
In that day the boundary shall be far extended.
- 12 In that day they will come to you,  
from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,  
and from Egypt to the River,  
from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.
- 13 But the earth will be desolate  
because of its inhabitants,  
for the fruit of their deeds.





- 14 Shepherd your people with your staff,  
the flock of your inheritance,  
who dwell alone in a forest  
in the midst of a garden land;  
let them graze in Bashan and Gilead  
as in the days of old.
- 15 As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,  
I will show them marvelous things.
- 16 The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might;  
they shall lay their hands on their mouths;  
their ears shall be deaf;
- 17 they shall lick the dust like a serpent,  
like the crawling things of the earth;  
they shall come trembling out of their strongholds;  
they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God,  
and they shall be in fear of you.
- 18 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.
- 19 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.
- 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and steadfast love to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our fathers  
from the days of old.





## MICAH AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes
		1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		6
		7





*Understanding the Anger of God*  
Cities of Micah and Habakkuk

**Cities of Micah and Habakkuk**



