

(Prayer) We thank you that your word is true, that it is light, that it is medicine. That it meets all the needs of the soul. We pray that you will be with us today as we look at this wonderful but comparatively little known book of Micah. That you will illumine our minds. That you will help us to see your wonderful truths there, and above all that you will draw us closer to our Saviour. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Our subject today is the book of Micah. The subject for the week is Lesser Known books of the Bible. It really is unfortunate that the Minor Prophets, so-called, should be a lesser known section because they contain some of the most wonderful things in the entire Word of God. They are minor in no sense except one--that they are shorter. They are shorter than Jeremiah by far, shorter than Ezekiel. But the book of Zechariah which is one of the Minor Prophets is shorter than the book of --- is longer than the book of Daniel, quite a ~~bit~~ bit longer.

So while Minor Prophets means shorter prophets, they are not strictly that much shorter. But they do contain wonderful gems and particularly this book of Micah. Micah has a style that is as fine as almost anything in the Scripture. It is a wonderful literary work. It probably Isaiah would rank a little higher in a literary sense, but then we must remember that Isaiah is at least eight times as long as Micah. There are probably many sections of Isaiah that are not quite as wonderful in a very few points as the best of Micah. But Micah contains some sections that would rank with the very best of Isaiah.

There is a certain similarity of style between Micah and Isaiah. This may be partly because they prophesied at about the same time but I think it would be that there is a great similarity in the character and general attitude of the two men. We have to recognize Isaiah from a human viewpoint as the greater literary figure than Micah, but not a great deal greater.

Micah is a very wonderful book. We approach a book like the book of Micah it is good for us to say a few words how to approach such a book. The book contains some wonderful predictions. But a prophet in the Biblical sense is not primarily one who says what is going to happen in the future. That is part of his work. But a prophet is one who speaks God's messages, and God's message includes statements about what is going to happen but includes far more than that. The prophet is God's spokesman. The work of the prophet is God's spokesman. As we approach almost any of the prophets there are certain principles that are just about the same for any of them.

One is that it is good to know something of the historical background. The prophets did not simply sit down and let their minds go blank and then write down something God gave them for a future age. The prophet's mind was very active but God led his mind in relation to the situation of his own day. So most of what the prophets say is understood if we relate it to the situation in which he spoke. So wherever we know the historical background of a book of the Bible it is tremendously helpful and important to see in what regard it fits with what the prophet says. In some cases we don't have a clear idea of what that background is. But in this case it