

Micah 5:1

Knowing is fun, Learning is hard!

A painting of a tree in a field. The tree is on the right side of the image, with a thick trunk and a dense, rounded canopy of yellowish-green leaves. The ground is a field of golden-brown grass or wheat. The background is a textured, mottled green and yellow, suggesting a hazy or overcast sky. The overall style is impressionistic and somewhat somber.

Micah

Churches are failing at teaching Scripture

One-third of the incoming freshmen students tested *at Wheaton College* could not put the following in sequential order:

1. Abraham,
2. the Old Testament prophets,
3. the death of Christ, and
4. Pentecost.

Micah

It's just too confusing?

Tyndale House Publishers did a survey to find out why people aren't reading the Bible. Their survey showed that **80% percent** said the Bible is too confusing and hard to understand.



Micah

David Wells in his book *No Place for Truth* wrote:

“I have watched with growing disbelief as the evangelical church has cheerfully plunged into astounding theological illiteracy,”

David F. Wells, *No Place for Truth or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993), 4.

Micah

According to Dr. Gary Burge,

the emphasis on personal development has affected what is coming from our pulpits:

“Thus sermons become more therapeutic and less instructional; and the validity of what we do on Sunday morning is grounded in what we feel, not in what we think.”

Micah

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

¹ After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. . . .

⁵ Then he [Hezekiah] worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. (2 Chronicles 32:1-5)

Micah

Broad Wall of Hezekiah from the West



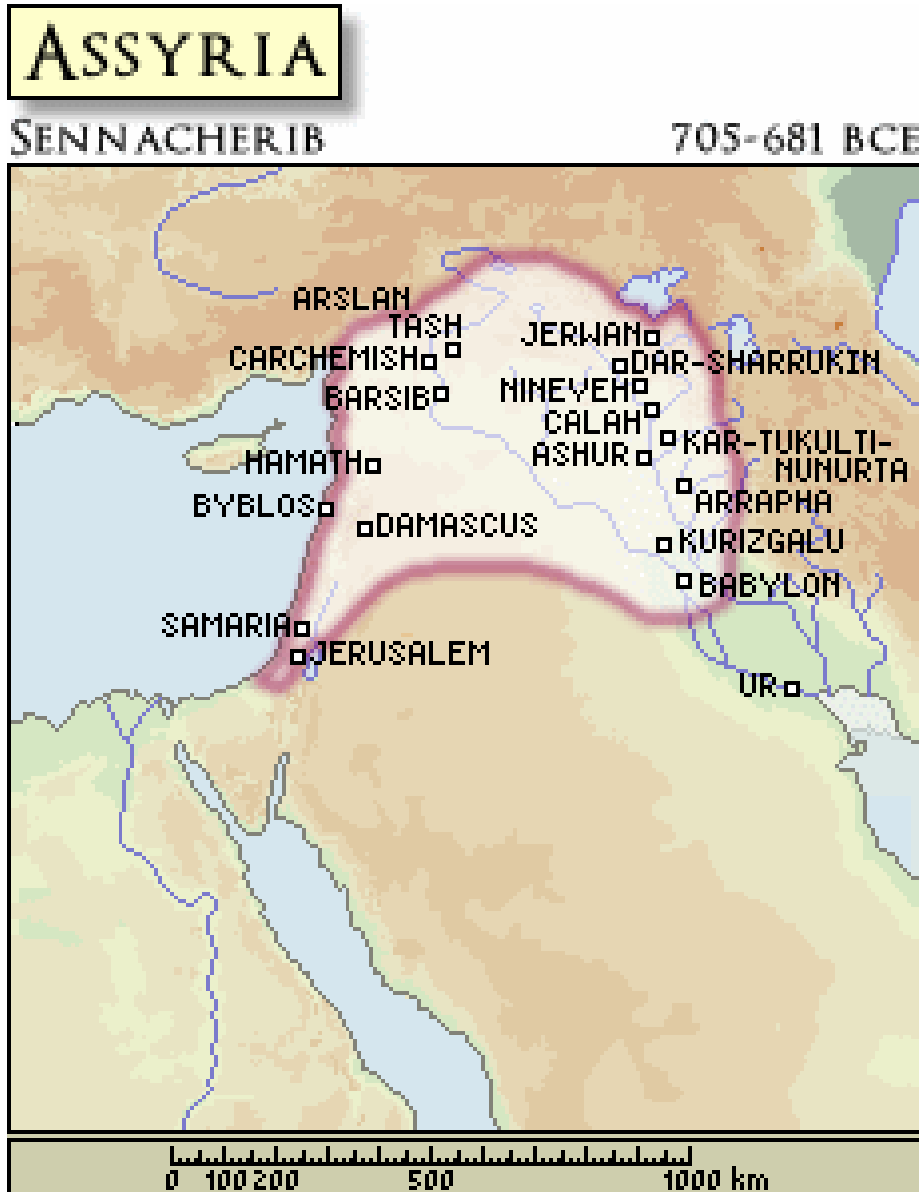
POINT #1:

Old Testament history is both accurate and important.

A painting of a tree in a field with the word 'Micah' written in cursive below it.

Micah

Sennacherib's Empire



Assyrian annuals report
Sennacherib as saying:

*“I surrounded him [Hezekiah] with an
earthwork” . . .*

Sennacherib goes on to boast that he shut
up Hezekiah as a prisoner in Jerusalem,
quote, *“like a bird in a cage.”*

Micah

Colossal winged
bull from the
Palace of
Sargon II
(710-705BC)



POINT #2:

The focus is on God.

He's greater than any nation or
circumstance!!!

A painting of a tree in a field with the word 'Micah' written in cursive. The background is a textured, yellowish-green wash. The tree is a simple, stylized form with a thick trunk and a rounded, spiky canopy. The word 'Micah' is written in a dark, cursive script in the bottom right corner.

Micah

God is greater

Therefore, this is what the Lord, the LORD Almighty, says: “O my people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrians, who beat you with a rod and lift up a club against you, as Egypt did.”
(Isaiah 10:24)

Micah

2 Kings 19:35-36

³⁵ That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies! ³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew.”

Micah

Important Tangents

1. We should expect to work when we listen to a sermon.
2. We should not expect Scripture to always relate directly to our life!

Micah

Questions to ponder

1. Do we come expecting to have to think?
2. Are we disappointed if the message doesn't directly apply to our lives?
3. Is our first and primary concern the depth and accuracy of the biblical teaching?

Micah

J.P. Moreland, *Love the Lord Your
God With All Your Mind*

“I can tell you from experience that when people learn what they believe and why, they become bold in their witness and attractive in the way they engage others...If we are going to be wise, spiritual people prepared to meet the crisis of our age, we must be a studying, learning community that values the life of the mind.”

Micah

The image features a textured, yellowish-green background with a mottled, painterly appearance. In the lower right corner, there is a small, stylized tree with a thick trunk and a dense, rounded canopy of thin, vertical lines representing branches and leaves. The overall color palette is warm and monochromatic, ranging from pale yellow to a muted green.

Micah