A Reading Resource on Micah for Ministers and Teachers

John T. Willis
Resource Guide
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Many scholarly books and articles on Micah have been published since 1980. This summary of selected works attempts to highlight significant studies in English. Helpful resources may be arranged in four categories.

COMMENTARIES
Francis I. Andersen and David Noel Freedman, *Micah* (The Anchor Bible 24E; New York: Doubleday, 2000) is the most thorough commentary thus far (637 pages with 66 pages of bibliography). The approach is vast and multifarious. Andersen and Freedman divide this work into three sections: chapters 1-3, 4-5, 6-7. In each case, they treat each section and verse in great detail. This volume includes chronological charts, maps, an introduction to the whole book, tables of various types throughout and occasional excursuses.

Daniel J. Simundson is the contributor to “The Book of Micah: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections,” in the *New Interpreter’s Bible*, vol. 7 (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996), 531-89. This format is useful for ministers and teachers. After an introduction, each section appears in two parts: commentary and reflections. Many practical religious ideas flow from this material.

Ralph L. Smith is the commentator on “Micah” in the *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 32 (Micah–Malachi; Waco: Word, 1984), 1-60. After an introduction, each section appears in two parts: commentary and reflections. This work discusses the meaning and application of the text.

STUDIES ON DIFFICULT TEXTS
It is well known that the book of Micah offers exceptionally difficult passages: 1.10–15; 2.6–11; 4.14–5.5 [English 5.1–6]; 6.6–8, 9–15; and 7.7[8]–20.


philological problems of this pericope, and discusses the political economies of North Israel and Judah in the eighth century B.C.E.


**RELIGIOUS THEMES**

Four major religious themes stand out in the book of Micah.

1. Perverted religious practices (Mic 1.5–7; 5.11–13 [English 12–14]; 6.6–7) and deplorable inhumane injustices (Mic 2.1–11; 3.1–4, 9–12; 6.9–16; 7.1–6) define the sinful fabric of the people of God. Several important studies on these matters include:


**MICAH IN THE BOOK OF THE TWELVE**

Ministers and teachers must not overlook recent important considerations of the function and role of the book of Micah within its larger place in the Book of the Twelve from Hosea to Malachi. The reader should not miss the rich volume by various authors on important themes in the Book of the Twelve edited by Paul L. Redditt and Aaron Schart, *Thematic Threads in the Book of the Twelve* (BZAW 325; New York: de Gruyter, 2003).

**JOHN T. WILLIS teaches OLD TESTAMENT AT ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY AND SERVES AS AN ELDER FOR THE HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST IN ABILENE, TEXAS.**