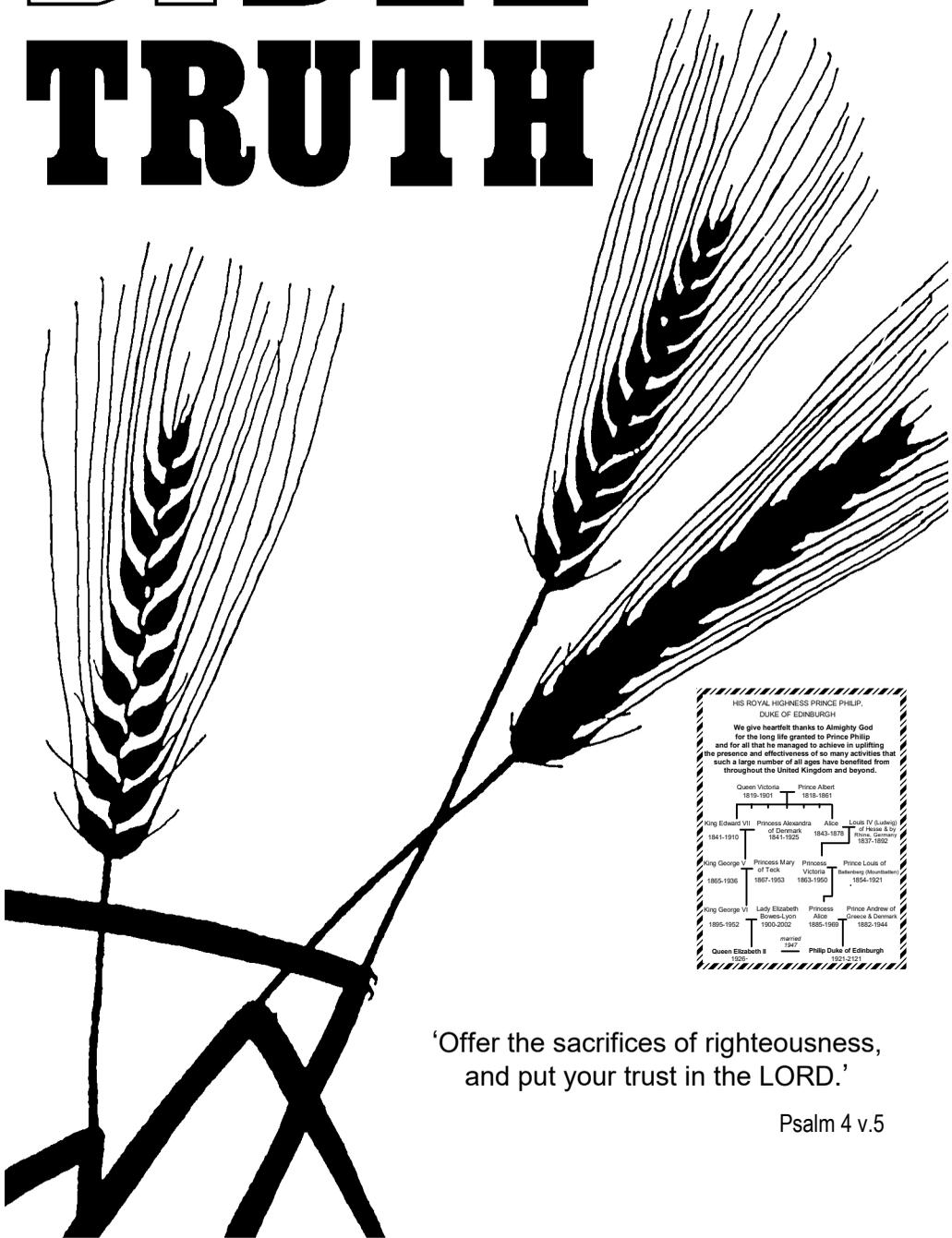


BIBLE TRUTH

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**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP,
DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

We give heartfelt thanks to Almighty God
for the long life granted to Prince Philip
and for all that he managed to achieve in uplifting
the presence and effectiveness of so many activities that
such a large number of all ages have benefited from
throughout the United Kingdom and beyond.

Queen Victoria 1819-1901 Prince Albert 1819-1861

King Edward VII 1841-1910 Princess Alexandra of Denmark 1844-1925 Alice 1843-1878 Louis IV (Ludwig) of Hesse & by Rhine 1837-1902

King George V 1865-1936 Princess Mary of Teck 1867-1953 Princess Victoria 1863-1951 Prince Louis of Battenberg (Mountbatten) 1854-1921

King George VI 1895-1952 Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon 1893-2002 Princess Alice 1885-1955 Prince Andrew of Greece & Denmark 1882-1944

Queen Elizabeth II 1926 married 1947 Philip Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

‘Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the LORD.’

Psalm 4 v.5

EXPAND YOUR BIBLE: MICAH

by Audrey Harrison

(taken from *Latter Rain* No. 58)

Micah is a biblical character whose name is mentioned in scripture but about whom little is known. So, who was he?

Recently whilst on a visit to Brisbane I was quite surprised to hear of an organisation named 'MICAH', so named I was informed after the prophet Micah because of his ideals and principles in preaching God's love and forgiveness to the truly repentant and his advocacy on behalf of the poor of his time. This was an organisation which helped with housing and care for those less fortunate.

Reference is made to Micah in the Old Testament in the Book of Jeremiah, when almost a century later Jeremiah was saved from death because of a similar event with Micah and in the New Testament, when the disciples refer to Bethlehem as Jesus' birth place.

'...This man is not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God. Then rose up certain of the elders of the land, and spake to all the assembly of the people, saying, Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.'

Jeremiah ch. 26 vv 16-18

He was born and lived in the small town of Moresheth on the border of Philistia, about 30 kilometres from Jerusalem and it is thought he would have preached in Jerusalem. His prophetic ministry took place in the reigns of three kings of Judah namely Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah between 742 and 687 BC. He was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah and Hosea although he is not mentioned by them.

In Micah's time, Jerusalem and the country faced enormous challenges from neighbouring countries with the choice of being overthrown in battle or becoming a vassal state thus paying high taxes to their oppressors, in this case Assyria.

The book of Micah is not a long one but the prophet describes in a very powerful manner the conditions of the time in which he lived.

In chapter three Micah gives a great overview of 'crooked' conditions existing in all levels of society and government. Verses 1-4 deal with the sins of the leaders of Israel, verses 5-7 with the false prophets and verses 9-12 with the leaders, priests and prophets.

The cruelty of the leaders towards the ordinary citizen is described figuratively and very graphically in verses 2 and 3.

'Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.'

The ordinary folk were being extorted in all ways.

In verse 5 the false prophets predicted peace while Micah speaks the truth prophesying war and destruction to an idolatrous nation.

In verse 11, the priests, judges and prophets are all accused of being open to bribes with the false prophets saying, 'Is not the LORD among us? None evil can come upon us'.

Micah was not backward in speaking God's words and judgements as given to him. At one time he criticised King Hezekiah's behaviour, with the result that Hezekiah repented and there was peace in the land for a time. A century later this confrontation is mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah when that prophet's life was in danger in similar circumstances. Micah was a forthright advocate for the majority of the impoverished living in Jerusalem and the nearby villages, speaking out against the wealthy landowners who oppressed the poor, the judges who gave biased and false judgements and the opportunistic prophets who gave false hopes of peace. His focus was on people as individuals rather than on the country as a whole.

Some of Micah's prophecies refer to the birth of Jesus which took place almost 700 years later. Micah ch.5 v.2 reads,

'But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting'.

He also predicts a time of peace on the earth.

'And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into

plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'

Micah ch. 4 v.3

Micah is remembered for his focus on the purity of worship and matters of social injustice.

He summarises his mission and message in the following verse.

'He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?'

Micah ch.6 v.8

The prophet stresses that God hates injustice, idolatry and empty rituals, but delights in pardoning the truly repentant and finishes his writings with these words.

'Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.'

Micah ch.7 v.18

Micah is classed as a minor prophet but he certainly had great advice and instruction which is as relevant today as in his lifetime.

Facts About Micah

- The name Micah means 'who is like Yahweh' so Micah must have been a righteous person.
- He was an Old Testament prophet who has a book in the Old Testament.
- It is uncertain but believed that Micah prophesied to Israel from 735 BC to 710 BC.
- The book of Micah is the 33rd book in the Bible, it is the 11th of 17 books of prophecy and he is the 6th of 12 prophets.
- A third of the book of Micah exposes the sins of Israel, a third reports the punishment that God will inflict and a third of the book records the hope of the restoration of Israel after God's punishment has finished.
- Micah was from Moresheth Gath located 25 miles south west of Jerusalem on the border of Judah.

- Micah prophesied during the reign of three kings: Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah.
- Micah spoke to the southern kingdom (Judah) and the northern kingdom (Israel) when he prophesied the fall of Samaria.
- Micah prophesied over a period of 25 years.
- Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah and Hosea.
- Micah particularly addressed the sins of Judah: oppression, bribery amongst the judicial system, exploitation of those that are powerless, covetousness, dishonesty cheating and pride.
