

## Micah

## Micah 1

- ¶1. The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morashtite, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah:
2. Hear, all nations! Give ear, O earth and its fullness! Let my Lord, Jehovah, be witness against you, my Lord from His holy temple.
  3. Behold, the LORD is coming forth from His place! He will descend and tread upon the high places of the earth.
  4. The mountains will melt beneath Him like wax before the fire, and the valleys will erupt like water poured down a steep slope.
  5. All this is because of the transgression of Jacob and because of the sins of the house of Israel. What is Jacob's transgression? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?
  6. *Jehovah said*, "I will turn Samaria into a heap of ruins in the field, a place for planting vineyards, and I will cast her stones into the valley and lay her foundations bare.
  7. All her graven images will be beaten to pieces, and all her earnings from harlotry will be burned with fire, and I will turn all her idols into trash. Inasmuch as she gathered them by the hire of a harlot, they will be turned back into the hire of a harlot."
  8. For this, I will beat my breast and weep aloud; I will go barefoot and naked; I will make a wailing like wolves and a mourning like owls.
  9. Her wound is incurable, for it has come to Judah; it has reached the gate of my people, even Jerusalem.
  10. Do not tell it in Gath; do not weep at all!<sup>1</sup> In Beth-aphrah, roll yourself in dust.
  11. Pass on by<sup>2</sup>, O woman of Shaphir, in disgusting nakedness. Do not go forth, O inhabitant of Zaanān *for* the wailing of Beth-hazel. He shall receive his support from you.<sup>3</sup>
  12. The inhabitant of Maroth longs for good because evil has come down from Jehovah to the gate of Jerusalem.
  13. Hitch the chariot to the horses, O inhabitant of Lachish. She was the beginning of sin to the daughters of Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel.
  14. Because of this, you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-Gath. The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.
  15. Yet, I am bringing the Heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; the glory of Israel will come to Adullam.
  16. Make *yourself* bald, shave the hair for your dainty sons! Enlarge your baldness like the vulture, for they have gone into exile from you.

## Micah 2

- ¶1. Woe to those who plot wickedness and devise evil upon their beds! At morning light, they do it because it is in the power of their hand.

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<sup>1</sup> In verses 11–13, there is a play on words involving the names of cities and the exhortations associated with them. This play on words, however, does not translate well into English.

<sup>2</sup> Hebrew uncertain.

<sup>3</sup> Hebrew uncertain.

2. They covet and seize fields, and take away houses, and they oppress a man and his household, yea, a man and his inheritance.
3. Because of this, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am planning evil against this family, from which you shall not remove your necks. Nor shall you walk around haughtily, for it will be an evil time.
4. In that day, one shall take up a parable against you, and let out a terrifying wail. He shall say, 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the portion of my people. How He has removed it from me and divided our fields to an apostate!'
5. Therefore, you will have no one to cast a measuring line by lot in the Assembly of the LORD.
6. 'You must not prophesy!' they prophesy. They are not prophesying about these things. It will not turn away reproaches.
7. Is it being said, O house of Jacob, 'Isn't the Spirit of the LORD limited if these are His doings?' Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?
8. Yet, heretofore, my people have risen up like an enemy. You strip a cloak from off the garment of the unsuspecting passers-by returning from battle.
9. You drive the wives among my people out of their pleasant houses; from their children, you have taken away my glory forever.
10. Rise up and leave, for this is not the rest, for it is unclean; it destroys, and it will suffer a grievous destruction.
11. If a man walking in the spirit of deception lies *and says*, 'I will prophesy to you for wine and for strong drink,' even he will be a prophet to this people.
12. I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob! I will surely assemble the remnant of Israel! I will bring them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in the middle of its pasture; they will make noise because of *the multitude of men*.
13. He who opens the breach has gone up before them. They have breached and passed through the gate, and are gone out by it. And their king shall pass through before them, with Jehovah at their head.

## Micah 3

- ¶1. "And I said, 'Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Shouldn't you know justice,  
2. you who hate goodness and love evil, who tear away their skin from them and their flesh from their bones,  
3. yea, who eat the flesh of my people and rip their skin off them? They break and shatter their bones as something for a pot and as flesh in a caldron.'"  
4. In time, they will cry out to Jehovah, but He will not answer them. On the contrary, He will hide His face from them in that time because they have made their deeds evil.
- ¶5. Thus says Jehovah concerning the prophets who cause my people to err, who proclaim peace as long as they are eating, but declare holy war against whoever will not put something into their mouths:  
6. "Because of this, it shall be night unto you, without vision, and darkness unto you without communication *from God*. The sun shall go down upon the prophets; even the day shall be dark upon them.  
7. The seers will be ashamed, and the diviners will blush; they will all cover the lip, for there is no answer from God."  
8. But as for me, I am full of strength by the Spirit of the LORD, and judgment and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

- ¶9. So, hear this, O heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert everything that is right,  
10. who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with iniquity.  
11. Her leaders govern for a bribe, and her priests give counsel for pay, and her prophets divine for money; yet, they lean upon the LORD, saying, “Is not Jehovah in our midst? No evil shall befall us.”  
12. Because of this – because of you! – Zion will be a plowed field, and Jerusalem will be a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house, forested high places.

## Micah 4

- ¶1. But it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as head of the mountains, and it will be exalted above the hills, and nations will stream to it.  
2. And many nations will go, and they will say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, even to the house of the God of Jacob! And He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths.” For from Zion will the law go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
3. And He will judge between many nations, and He will reprove mighty nations that are far off, and they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation; neither will they learn war any more.  
4. But they will sit, each one, under his vine and under his fig tree, and none will make afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken.  
5. For all the nations will walk, each one, 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, says Jehovah, I will gather her who is lame, and gather her who is cast out, even her whom I afflicted,  
7. and I will transform the lame into a remnant and her who was scattered afar into a mighty nation, and Jehovah will reign over them in Mount Zion from that time and forever.”
- ¶8. As for you, O tower of the flock, O fortress of the daughter of Zion, to you it shall come. Yea, the former dominion shall come, a kingdom for the daughter of Jerusalem.  
9. Why do you now make such a loud cry? Is there no king in you? Has your counsellor perished? Pain has seized you like a woman in labor.  
10. Like a woman in labor, writhe and burst forth, O daughter of Zion, for you now will go out from the city and dwell in the field! You will go even to Babylon. There, you will be delivered; there, the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.  
11. And at that time, many nations will have assembled against you who were saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our eyes look on Zion!”  
12. But they will not know the LORD’s thoughts, and they will not understand His purpose, that He has gathered them like a sheaf to the threshing floor.  
13. O daughter of Zion, rise and thresh! For I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves brass, that you might crush many peoples. And I will devote their unjust gain to the LORD, and their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

## Micah 5

1. You are gathering yourself now in divisions, O daughter of division! He has laid siege against us. They shall strike the Judge of Israel upon the cheek with a rod.
- ¶2. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though small among the families of Judah, out of you shall he come forth to me to be Ruler in Israel. Yet, his goings forth are from ancient times, from the days of eternity.
3. Because of this, He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth; then a remnant of his brothers will return to the children of Israel.
4. And he will stand and feed *them* by the strength of the LORD, by the majesty of the name of Jehovah his God, and they will dwell securely, for he will then be exalted, even to the ends of the earth.
5. And this man will be the peace, O Assyrian, when he enters into our land. And when he marches into our fortresses, we will raise up with him seven shepherds, even eight princely men,
6. and they will devastate the land of Assyria with the sword, even the land of Nimrod, with its gates. And he will deliver us from Assyria when he comes into our land and marches into our borders.
- ¶7. And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from Jehovah, like showers upon grass, which does not wait for man nor tarry for the children of men.
8. The remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the forest animals, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, who both tramples and tears when he passes through, and there is no escape.
9. May your hand be exalted over your adversaries, and may all your enemies be cut off!
- ¶10. "It shall come to pass in that day, says Jehovah, that I will cut off your horses from your midst and destroy your chariots.
11. And I will cut off the cities of your lands, and I will tear down all your fortresses.
12. I will also cut off sorceries from you, and you shall no longer have soothsayers.
13. And I will cut off your images and your sacred pillars from your midst, and you will never again bow down to a work of your own hands.
14. And I will uproot your sacred trees from your midst, and I will destroy your cities.
15. And then, in anger and in fury, I will execute vengeance upon the heathen nations who have not obeyed."

## Micah 6

- ¶1. Hear, I pray, what Jehovah is saying! "Stand up and plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice!"
2. Hear Jehovah's case, O mountains and everlasting foundations of earth! For Jehovah has a dispute with His people, and He will plead with Israel:
3. "My people! What have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against me!
4. For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and I redeemed you from the house of slaves. And I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you."
5. Remember, I pray, O my people, what Balak, King of Moab, devised and how Balaam ben-Beor answered him from Shittim to Gilgal, so that the righteousness of the LORD might be known.
6. With what shall I come before Jehovah and bow myself to the most high God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?

7. Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriads 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 shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
- ¶9. Jehovah's voice calls to the city, and sound wisdom fears your name. Take heed to the rod and to the One who appointed it:
10. "Are there yet guilty treasures in the house of the wicked, and a scant ephah measure, which is abominable?
11. Shall I count as pure *a city* with rigged scales and with a bag of deceptive weights,
12. whose rich men are full of violence and whose inhabitants utter lies, and the tongue in their mouth is deceitful?
13. Therefore, I will make *you* sick, striking you with devastation because of your sins.
14. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied, and your emptiness<sup>4</sup> will be in your midst. You will turn away, but you shall not escape, and whoever does escape, I will put to the sword.
15. You will sow seed, but you will not reap; you will tread olives, but you will not anoint with oil; and you will press must, but you will not drink wine.
16. The statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and you walk in their ways. Therefore, I will hand you over to desolation, and her inhabitants to derision. Thus will you bear the reproach of my people."

## Micah 7

- ¶1. Woe is me, for I am like leftovers of summer fruit, like gleanings of the vintage. There is no cluster to eat. My soul longs for the first-ripe fig!
2. The godly man is perished out of the land, and no one is upright among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed. Every man hunts his brother with a net.
3. Both hands are occupied with what is evil, to do it well. The ruler and the judge ask for a bribe; then the great man communicates his soul's desire, and they weave it together.
4. The best one among them is like a briar; the *most* upright one *is worse* than a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen and of your visitation has come. Their confounding will now come about.
5. Do not trust in a friend, nor trust a leader! Guard the openings of your mouth from the woman lying in your bosom!
6. For the son dishonors the father, the daughter rises up against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies are those of his own household.
7. But I will look for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.
8. Do not rejoice against me, O my enemy. Though I fall, I will arise. When I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light for me.
- ¶9. I will bear Jehovah's wrath, for I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my cause and has carried out my judgment. He will bring me forth to the light; in His righteousness, I will see.

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<sup>4</sup> Hebrew uncertain.

10. Then she who is my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who says to me, "Where is Jehovah, your God?" My eyes will see her at that time; she will be tramped down like mud in the streets.
11. The day that your walls are built will be the day the boundary is extended.
12. That day, he shall come to you from Assyria to the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the river, even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.
13. Nevertheless, the land will be a desolation because of its inhabitants, as the fruit of their deeds.
- ¶14. Shepherd your people with your rod, the flock of your inheritance dwelling in isolation, a thicket in the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.
15. As in the days of your exodus from the land of Egypt, I will show them extraordinary things.
16. The Gentiles will see and be ashamed of all their power. They will lay a hand over *their* mouth. Their ears shall become deaf.
17. They will lick up dust like the serpent. They will tremble in their holes like creeping things of earth. They will be in dread of Jehovah our God. Yea, they will be afraid because of you.
18. Who is a God like you, taking away iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? He will not retain His anger forever because He delights in kindness.
19. He will repent; He will have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.
20. You will show truth to Jacob and kindness to Abraham, as you swore to our fathers in days of old.