

Micah

Chapter 1

- ¶1. The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morashthite, 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, Jehovah is coming out from His place! He shall come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.
4. The mountains shall melt beneath Him like wax before the fire, and the valleys shall 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. I will turn Samaria into ruins in a field, planting places for a vineyard, and I will cast her stones down into the valley and lay her foundations bare.
7. All her graven images shall be smashed, and all her earnings from harlotry shall be burned with fire, and I will turn all her idols into trash. Inasmuch as she gathered *them* with the hire of a harlot, they shall 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 jackals and a mourning like owls.
9. Her wounds are incurable, for she has come against Judah. He has come as far as the gate of my people, even Jerusalem.
10. Do not tell it in Gath; do not weep at all! In Beth-aphrah, roll yourself¹ in dust.

¹ Or, "I will roll myself."

11. Pass on by², O woman of Shaphir, in disgusting nakedness. The woman of Zanan does not go out *for* the wailing of Beth-hazel. He shall take its standing place from you.³
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 Israel's transgressions.
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. Still, I will bring the heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah. The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.
16. Make yourself bald; shave for your delicate sons! Increase your baldness like an eagle, for they have gone into exile from you.

Chapter 2

- ¶1. Woe to those who plot wickedness and devise evil upon their beds! At morning light, they put it into effect because it is in their power *to do so*.
2. They covet fields and take *them* by force, and houses, and they take *them* away. They oppress every man and his household, even 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 totally destroyed! He has changed the portion of my people. How He has removed mine and divided our fields to the apostate!'"
5. Because of this, you shall have no one to cast a measuring line by lot in the LORD's assembly.

² Hebrew uncertain.

³ Hebrew uncertain.

6. Do not prophesy *as* they prophesy! They do not prophesy about these things. He shall not be deterred by insults.
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. Even up to now, my people rise 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 *your* rest! It is polluted; therefore, it shall destroy *you with* a grievous destruction.
11. If a man walking *in the* spirit of deception tells a lie *and says*, “I will prophesy to you of wine and of strong drink,” even he shall 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 shall be noisy 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 the LORD at their head.

Chapter 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. O haters of goodness and lovers of evil, who tear away their skin from them, and their flesh from their bones,
3. and 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. They shall then cry out to the LORD, 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 the LORD 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 *it shall be* 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 shall be ashamed, and the diviners shall blush; they shall 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 shall be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house *shall be* like high places in a forest.

Chapter 4

- ¶1. But it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the house of Jehovah 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 of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For from Zion will the law go forth, and the word of Jehovah 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 shall sit, each one, under his vine and under his fig tree, and none will make *them* 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 Jehovah our God forever and ever.
- ¶6. "In that day," says Jehovah, "I will gather the lame, and gather her who was cast out, and 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, it shall come to you. The highest dominion, the kingdom, shall come to 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 bring forth, O daughter of Zion. For you shall now go out from the city and dwell in the field; you shall go even to Babylon. There you shall be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

11. Yet now, many nations assembled against you who were saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our eyes look on Zion!”
12. But they did not know Jehovah’s thoughts, and they did not understand His purpose, that He 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 Jehovah, and their wealth to the Owner of all the earth.

Chapter 5

- 1/14. Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of a troop! He has laid siege against us. They shall strike the judge of Israel upon the cheek with a rod.

Chapter 5 [Hebrew text]

- ¶2/1. But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be small among the families of Judah, yet out of you, he shall come forth to me who is to be ruler in Israel. His origin is from ancient times, from the days of eternity.
- 3/2. Because of this, He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth, and then a remnant of his brothers will return to the children of Israel.
- 4/3. And he shall stand and shepherd *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.
- 5/4. And this man shall be the peace when the Assyrian enters into our land, and we will raise up seven shepherds, even eight princes, against him when he marches into our fortresses,
- 6/5. and they will destroy 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.

- ¶7/6. And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples, like the dew from the LORD, like showers upon plants that do not wait for man, nor tarry for the sons of men.
- 8/7. 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.
- 9/8. May your hand be exalted over your adversaries, and may all your enemies be cut off!
- ¶10/9. “It shall come to pass in that day,” says Jehovah, “that I will cut off your horses from your midst and destroy your chariots.
- 11/10. And I will cut off the cities of your lands, and I will tear down all your fortresses.
- 12/11. I will also cut off sorceries from you, and you shall no longer have soothsayers.
- 13/12. And I will cut off your images and your sacred pillars from your midst, and you shall never again bow down to a work of your own hands.
- 14/13. And I will uproot your sacred trees from your midst, and I will destroy your cities,
- 15/14. and then in anger and in fury, I will execute vengeance upon the heathen nations who have not obeyed.”

Chapter 6

- ¶1. Hear now what Jehovah is saying! Stand up and plead *your* case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
2. Listen to Jehovah’s case, O mountains and everlasting foundations of earth! For the Jehovah has a dispute with His people, and He will plead with Israel:
3. “O 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. O my people, remember, I pray you, what Balak, King of Moab, devised and how Balaam, son of Beor, answered him from Shittim, even as far as Gilgal, so that the righteousness of the Jehovah 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 whole burnt offerings, with yearling calves?
7. Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousand 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 Jehovah require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
- ¶9. Jehovah’s voice will call to the city, and sound wisdom will fear 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 justify *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 their 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 shall not be satisfied, and your emptiness⁴ will be in your midst. You will turn away, but you shall not escape, and what you save, I will put to the sword.

⁴ Hebrew uncertain.

15. You will sow seed, but you shall not reap, you will tread olives, but you shall not anoint with oil, and you will press must, but you shall 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 you shall bear the reproach of my people.”

Chapter 7

- ¶1. Woe is me! 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 of them is like a briar; the upright among *them* 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 *his* 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 Jehovah; 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, Jehovah 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 carries out my judgment. He will bring me forth to the light; in His righteousness, I will see.

10. Then she who is my enemy will see *it*, and shame will cover her who says to me, “Where is Jehovah your God?” My eyes will see her at that time; she will become a trampling place, like mud in the streets.
11. That day *will be* a day for building your walls, and the boundary shall be 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 become a desolation because of its inhabitants, as the fruit of their deeds.
- ¶14. Shepherd your people with your rod, the flock of your possession dwelling in isolation, a thicket in the midst of a fruitful field. Let them shepherd 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 shall see and be ashamed of all their power. They shall lay a hand over *their* mouth. Their ears shall become deaf.
17. They shall lick up dust like the serpent. They will tremble in their holes like creeping things of earth. They shall be in dread of Jehovah our God. Yes, they shall 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 relent; 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 give truth to Jacob and kindness to Abraham, which you swore to our fathers in days of old.