**The Book of Micah**

**Micah Chapter 1**

1The word of Yahweh that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, that he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

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| 2 | Hear, you peoples, all of you.  Listen, O earth, and all that is in it,  and let the Lord Yahweh be a witness against you,  the Lord from his holy Temple. |
| 3 | For behold, Yahweh is coming out of his place,  and will come down and tread  on the high places of the earth. |
| 4 | The mountains melt under him  and the valleys split apart  like wax before the fire,  like waters that are poured down a steep place. |
| 5 | All this is because of the disobedience of Jacob  and because of the sins of the house of Israel.  What is the disobedience of Jacob?  Is it not Samaria?  And what are the shrines of Judah?  Are they not Jerusalem? |
| 6 | Therefore I will make Samaria  like a rubble heap of the field,  like places for planting vineyards,  and I will pour down its stones into the valley  and I will uncover its foundations. |
| 7 | All her idols will be beaten to pieces  and all her prostitute’s wages will be burned with fire,  and I will destroy all her images,  for from the wages of a prostitute she has gathered them,  and to the wages of a prostitute they will return. |
| 8 | For this I will lament and wail;  I will go stripped and naked.  I will howl like the jackals  and moan like the daughters of owls. |
| 9 | For her wounds are incurable;  for it has come even to Judah.  It reaches to the gate of my people,  even to Jerusalem. |
| 10 | Do not tell it in Gath.  Do not weep at all.  At Beth-ophrah I have rolled myself in the dust. |
| 11 | Pass on, inhabitant of Shaphir,  in nakedness and shame.  The inhabitant of Zaanan will not come out.  The wailing of Beth-ezel  will take from you his protection. |
| 12 | For the inhabitant of Maroth  waits anxiously for good,  because evil has come down from Yahweh  to the gate of Jerusalem. |
| 13 | Harness the chariot to the swift steed,  O inhabitant of Lachish.  She was the beginning of sin to Daughter Zion,  for the transgressions of Israel were found in you. |
| 14 | Therefore you will give a parting gift to Moresheth-gath.  The houses of Achzib will be a deceitful thing  to the kings of Israel. |
| 15 | I will yet bring a conqueror against you,  O inhabitant of Mareshah;  the nobles of Israel will go to Adullam. |
| 16 | Shave your heads bald and cut off your hair  *in mourning* for the children in whom you delight.  Enlarge your baldness like the vulture,  for they have been taken from you into captivity! |

**Micah Chapter 2**

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| 1 | Woe to those who plan iniquity  and do evil on their beds!  When the morning is light, they carry it out,  because it is in the power of their hand. |
| 2 | They covet fields and seize them,  and *covet* houses, and take them away;  and they oppress a man and his household,  even a man and his inheritance. |

3Therefore this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Behold, I am planning against these people  a disaster  from which you will not remove your necks,  nor will you walk haughtily,  for it is an evil time. |
| 4 | In that day they will take up a parable against you,  and wail a wail with *much* wailing, saying,  “We are ruined, yes, ruined!  My people’s possession is divided up.  Indeed he takes it from me  and assigns our fields to the rebellious!” |
| 5 | Therefore you will have no one  who divides the land by lot  in the assembly of Yahweh. |
| 6 | “Do not prophesy,” they prophesy.  “Do not prophesy about these things;  disgrace will not overtake us.” |
| 7 | Should this be said, O house of Jacob?  Has the spirit of Yahweh grown impatient?  Are these his works?  Do not my words do good  to him who walks blamelessly? |
| 8 | But lately my people have risen up  as an enemy.  You strip the rich cloak  off those who pass by without a care,  *like those* returning from battle. |
| 9 | You drive the women of my people  out from their pleasant houses;  from their young children  you take away my splendor forever. |
| 10 | Arise and depart!  For this is not your resting place,  because of uncleanness that brings on destruction,  even a grievous destruction. |
| 11 | If a man walking with a lying spirit speaks lies, *saying,*  “I will prophesy to you of wine and of beer,”  he would be the prophet of this people. |
| 12 | I will assemble, yes, assemble Jacob, all of you.  I will gather, yes, gather the remnant of Israel;  I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah,  as a flock in the middle of their pasture;  they will swarm with people. |
| 13 | The one who breaks open *the way*  will go up before them.  They break through the gate  and go out.  And their king passes on before them,  with Yahweh at their head. |

**Micah Chapter 3**

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| 1 | So I said, listen, please, you heads of Jacob  and rulers of the house of Israel.  Aren’t you supposed to know what is just? |
| 2 | You who hate the good, and love the evil;  who tear the skin off of my people,  and their flesh from off their bones, |
| 3 | and who eat the flesh of my people  and flay their skin from off them,  and break their bones,  and chop them in pieces as for the pot,  and as flesh inside the caldron. |
| 4 | Then they will cry out to Yahweh,  but he will not answer them.  Yes, he will hide his face from them at that time  because of the evil they have done.” |
| 5 | This is what Yahweh says  concerning the prophets  who lead my people astray;  who cry out “Peace”  when their teeth have something to bite,  but declare war against the one  who does not put anything into their mouths: |
| 6 | Therefore it will be night for you—with no vision;  and it will be dark for you—with no divination.  And the sun will go down on the prophets,  and the day will be black over them. |
| 7 | The seers will be put to shame  and the diviners humiliated.  Yes, they will all cover their lips  because there is no answer from God. |
| 8 | But as for me, I am full of power  by the spirit of Yahweh;  and of judgment, and of might,  to declare to Jacob his disobedience  and to Israel his sin. |
| 9 | Listen to this, please, you 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 up Zion with blood,  and Jerusalem with iniquity. |
| 11 | Her leaders judge for a bribe,  and her priests teach for a price,  and her prophets offer divination for money;  yet they lean on Yahweh and say,  “Isn’t Yahweh in the midst of us?  No disaster will come on us.” |
| 12 | Therefore because of you,  Zion will be plowed like a field,  and Jerusalem will become heaps of rubble,  and the mountain of the Temple  like the heights of a forest. |

**Micah Chapter 4**

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| 1 | And in the last days  the mountain of the house of Yahweh  will be established  as the chief of the mountains.  It will be lifted up above the hills,  and people will stream to it. |
| 2 | And many nations will come and say,  “Come and let’s go up to the mountain of Yahweh  and to the house of the God of Jacob,  so that he can teach us about his ways,  so that we can walk in his paths.”  For the law will go forth out from Zion  and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem, |
| 3 | and he will judge between many peoples,  and will decide concerning strong nations  that are far away.  They will beat their swords into plowblades  and their spears into pruning hooks.  Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  nor will they learn war any more. |
| 4 | But they will sit, each person, under his vine  and under his fig tree,  and no one will make them afraid;  for the mouth of Yahweh of Armies  has spoken. |
| 5 | Indeed all the nations may walk  in the name of their gods;  but we will walk in the name of Yahweh our God  forever and ever. |
| 6 | In that day,  says Yahweh,  I will assemble the lame,  and I will gather those who have been driven away,  and those who I have afflicted; |
| 7 | and I will make the lame a remnant,  and those who were cast far away into a strong nation,  and Yahweh, on Mount Zion, will reign over them  from then on, even forever. |
| 8 | You, Migdal-eder,[[1]](#footnote-19899)  the fortified hill of Daughter Zion,  to you it will come,  yes, the former dominion will come,  the kingdom of Daughter Jerusalem. |
| 9 | Why are you now crying out aloud?  Is there no king in you?  Has your counselor perished,  that pains have taken hold of you as of a woman in labor? |
| 10 | Writhe and labor to give birth,  O Daughter Zion,  like a woman in labor;  for now you will go out of the city  and will live in the field,  and will go to Babylon.  There you will be rescued;  there Yahweh will redeem you  from the hand of your enemies. |
| 11 | Now many nations have assembled against you,  saying, “Let her be defiled,  and let our eye gloat over Zion.” |
| 12 | But they do not know the thoughts of Yahweh,  nor do they understand his counsel;  for he has gathered them  like the sheaves to the threshing floor. |
| 13 | Arise and thresh, Daughter Zion;  for I will make your horn iron,  and I will make your hoofs bronze,  and you will beat in pieces many peoples:  and I will devote their grain to Yahweh  and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth. |

**Micah Chapter 5**

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| 1 | Now you will gather yourself in troops,  daughter of troops.  He has laid siege against us.  They will strike the judge of Israel  on the cheek with a rod. |
| 2 | But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  being small among the clans of Judah,  out from you will come forth for me  one who is to be ruler in Israel,  whose origin is from of old,  from ancient times. |
| 3 | Therefore he will abandon them until the time  that she who is in labor gives birth.  Then the rest of his brothers will return  to the children of Israel. |
| 4 | And he will stand and will shepherd  in the strength of Yahweh,  in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God;  and they will live,  for then he will be great  to the ends of the earth. |
| 5 | He will be our peace  when Assyria invades our land,  and when he marches through our fortresses,  then we will raise against him seven shepherds  and eight leaders of men. |
| 6 | They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,  and the land of Nimrod with a drawn sword.  He will deliver us from the Assyrian,  when he invades our land  and when he marches inside our border. |
| 7 | The remnant of Jacob  will be in the midst of many peoples,  like dew from Yahweh,  like showers on the grass,  that do not wait for man  or wait for the sons of men. |
| 8 | The remnant of Jacob  will be among the nations in the midst of many peoples,  like a lion among the animals of the forest,  like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,  who, if he goes through, treads down and tears in pieces,  and there is no one to deliver. |
| 9 | Let your hand be lifted up above your adversaries,  and let all of your enemies be cut off. |
| 10 | It will happen in that day,  says Yahweh,  that I will cut off your horses out of the midst of you,  and will destroy your chariots. |
| 11 | I will cut off the cities of your land,  and will tear down all your strongholds. |
| 12 | I will destroy witchcraft from your hand,  and you will have no soothsayers. |
| 13 | I will cut off your carved images  and your standing-stones from your midst,  and you will no longer worship  the work of your hands. |
| 14 | I will uproot your Asherah poles out of your midst,  and I will destroy your cities. |
| 15 | I will execute vengeance in anger,  and wrath on the nations that did not listen. |

**Micah Chapter 6**

1Listen now to what Yahweh says:

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|  | Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  and let the hills hear what you have to say. |
| 2 | Hear, you mountains, Yahweh’s controversy,  and you enduring foundations of the earth;  for Yahweh has a controversy with his people,  and he will contend with Israel. |
| 3 | My people, what have I done to you?  How have I burdened you?  Answer me! |
| 4 | For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt  and redeemed you out of the house of slavery.  I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. |
| 5 | My people,  remember now what Balak king of Moab devised,  and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him  from Shittim to Gilgal,  that you may know  the righteous acts of Yahweh. |
| 6 | How should I come before Yahweh  and bow myself before the exalted God?  Should I come before him with burnt offerings,  with calves a year old? |
| 7 | Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams,  with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  Should I give my firstborn for my disobedience,  the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? |
| 8 | O people, he has shown you what is good.  What does Yahweh require of you  but to act justly,  to love mercy,  and to walk humbly with your God? |
| 9 | Yahweh’s voice calls to the city,  and wisdom sees your name:  “Listen to the rod,  and he who appointed it. |
| 10 | Are there yet treasures of wickedness  in the house of the wicked,  and a short ephah that is accursed? |
| 11 | Can I reckon *someone to be* pure who uses dishonest balances,  and with a bag of deceptive weights? |
| 12 | Her rich men are full of violence,  her inhabitants speak lies,  and their tongue is deceitful in their speech. |
| 13 | Therefore I have also struck you with a grievous wound.  I have made you desolate because of your sins. |
| 14 | You will eat, but not be satisfied.  Your humiliation will be in your midst.  You will store up, but not save,  and what you save  I will give up to the sword. |
| 15 | You will sow, but will not reap.  You will tread the olives,  but will not anoint yourself with oil,  and crush grapes,  but will not drink the wine. |
| 16 | For the statutes of Omri are kept,  and all the works of the house of Ahab.  You walk in their counsels,  that I may make you a ruin,  and her inhabitants a hissing.  And you will bear the reproach of my people.” |

**Micah Chapter 7**

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| 1 | Woe is me!  For I have become like one who,  after the summer fruit has been gathered,  after the *grape* clusters have been gleaned,  finds no cluster to eat;  there are no first-ripe figs that my soul desires. |
| 2 | The godly person has perished from the earth,  and there is no one upright among the people.  They all lie in wait for blood;  every person hunts his brother with a net. |
| 3 | Their hands are on what is evil to do it diligently.  The ruler and judge ask for a bribe,  and the powerful man dictates the evil desire of his soul.  Thus they conspire together. |
| 4 | The best of them is like a briar.  The most upright is worse than a thorn hedge.  The day of your watchmen—  your punishment—is coming;  then is the time of their confusion. |
| 5 | Do not trust in a neighbor.  Do not put confidence in a friend.  Guard the doors of your mouth  from the woman who lies in your bosom. |
| 6 | For the son dishonors the father,  the daughter rises up against her mother,  the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  a man’s enemies are the men of his own house. |
| 7 | But as for me, I will look to Yahweh.  I will wait for the God of my salvation.  My God will hear me. |
| 8 | Do not rejoice against me, my enemy.  When I fall, I will arise.  When I sit in darkness,  Yahweh will be a light to me. |
| 9 | I will bear the indignation of Yahweh  because I have sinned against him,  until he pleads my case  and executes judgment for me.  He will bring me forth to the light.  I will see his righteousness. |
| 10 | Then my enemy will see it,  and shame will cover her who said to me,  “Where is Yahweh your God?”  Then my enemy will see me  and will cover her shame.  Now she will be trampled down  like the mire of the streets. |
| 11 | A day to build your walls—  in that day, he will extend your boundary. |
| 12 | In that day they will come to you  from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,  and from Egypt even to the River,  and from sea to sea,  and mountain to mountain. |
| 13 | Yet the land will be desolate  because of those who dwell in it,  for the fruit of their doings. |
| 14 | Shepherd your people with your staff,  the flock of your heritage  who dwell by themselves in a forest,  in the middle of fertile pastureland let them feed;  in Bashan and Gilead,  as in the days of old. |
| 15 | “As in the days of your coming forth  out of the land of Egypt,  I will show them marvelous things.” |
| 16 | The nations will see and be ashamed  of all their might.  They will lay their hand on their mouth.  Their ears will be deaf. |
| 17 | They will lick the dust like a serpent.  Like crawling things of the earth  they will come trembling out of their dens.  They will come with fear to Yahweh our God,  and will be afraid because of you. |
| 18 | Who is a God like you,  who pardons iniquity and passes over the disobedience  of the remnant of his heritage?  He does not retain his anger forever,  because he delights in covenant faithfulness. |
| 19 | He will again have compassion on us.  He will tread our iniquities under foot,  and you will cast all our sins  into the depths of the sea. |
| 20 | You will give truth to Jacob  and mercy to Abraham,  as you have sworn to our fathers  from the days of old. |

1. Heb. “Tower of the Flock” [↑](#footnote-ref-19899)