

Micah

¹ A word of YHWH that has been to Micah the Morashite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah, that he has seen concerning Samaria and Jerusalem: ² Hear, O peoples, all of them! Attend, O earth, and its fullness, || And Lord YHWH is against you for a witness, || The Lord from His holy temple. ³ For behold, YHWH is going out from His place, || And He has come down, || And has trodden on high places of earth. ⁴ The mountains have been melted under Him, || And the valleys split themselves, || As wax from the presence of fire, || As waters cast down by a slope. ⁵ For the transgression of Jacob [is] all this, || And for the sins of the house of Israel. What [is] the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what the high places of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem? ⁶ “And I have set Samaria for a heap of the field, || For plantations of a vineyard, || And poured out into a valley her stones, || And her foundations I uncover. ⁷ And all her carved images are beaten down, || And all her wages are burned with fire, || And all her idols I make a desolation, || For from the wage of a harlot she gathered, and to the wage of a harlot they return.” ⁸ For this I lament and howl, || I go spoiled and naked, || I make a lamentation like dragons, || And a mourning like daughters of an ostrich. ⁹ For mortal [are] her wounds, || For it has come to Judah, || It

has come to a gate of My people—to Jerusalem.
¹⁰ In Gath do not tell—in Acco do not weep, ||
 In Beth-Aphrah, roll yourself in dust. ¹¹ Pass
 over for you, O inhabitant of Shaphir, || Naked
 one of shame. The inhabitant of Zaanán has not
 gone out, || The lamentation of Beth-Ezel takes
 from you its standing. ¹² For the inhabitant of
 Maroth has stayed for good, || For calamity has
 come down from YHWH to the gate of Jerusalem.
¹³ Bind the chariot to a swift beast, O inhabitant
 of Lachish, || The beginning of sin [is] she to the
 daughter of Zion, || For in you have been found
 the transgressions of Israel. ¹⁴ Therefore you
 give presents to Moresheth-Gath, || The houses
 of Achzib become a lying thing to the kings of
 Israel. ¹⁵ Yet I bring the possessor to you, O
 inhabitant of Mareshah, || The glory of Israel
 comes to Adullam. ¹⁶ Make bald and shave, for
 your delightful sons, || Enlarge your baldness as
 an eagle, || For they have removed from you!

2

¹ Woe [to] those devising iniquity, || And
 working evil on their beds, || In the morning
 light they do it, || For their hand is—to God.
² And they have desired fields, || And they have
 taken violently, || And houses, and they have
 taken away, || And have oppressed a man and
 his house, || Even a man and his inheritance.
³ Therefore, thus said YHWH: “Behold, I am
 devising against this family calamity, || From
 which you do not remove your necks, || Nor
 walk loftily, for it [is] a time of evil. ⁴ In that

day [one] takes up for you an allegory, || And he has wailed a wailing of woe, || He has said, We have been utterly spoiled, || The portion of my people He changes, || How He moves toward me! To the backslider our fields He apports. ⁵ Therefore, you have no caster of a line by lot || In the assembly of YHWH. ⁶ You do not prophesy—they prophesy, || They do not prophesy to these, || It does not remove shame. ⁷ [Those] named the house of Jacob: Has the Spirit of YHWH been shortened? Are these His doings? Do My words not benefit the people that are walking uprightly? ⁸ And recently My people raise up as an enemy, || You strip off the honorable ornament from the outer garment, || From the confident passers by, || You who are turning back from war. ⁹ The women of My people you cast out from its delightful house, || From its sucklings you take away My honor for all time. ¹⁰ Rise and go, for this [is] not the rest, || Because of uncleanness it corrupts, || And corruption is powerful. ¹¹ If one is going [with] the wind, || And [with] falsehood has lied: I prophesy to you of wine, and of strong drink, || He has been the prophet of this people! ¹² I surely gather you, O Jacob, all of you, || I surely bring together the remnant of Israel, || Together I set it as the flock of Bozrah, || As a drove in the midst of its pasture, || It makes a noise because of man. ¹³ The breaker has gone up before them, || They have broken through, || Indeed, they pass through the gate, || Indeed, they go out through it, || And their king passes on before

them, || And YHWH at their head!”

3

¹ And I say, “Now hear, O heads of Jacob, || And you judges of the house of Israel, || Is it not for you to know the judgment? ² You who are hating good, and loving evil, || Taking violently their skin from off them, || And their flesh from off their bones, ³ And who have eaten the flesh of My people, || And their skin from off them have stripped, || And their bones they have broken, || And they have spread [them] out as in a pot, || And as flesh in the midst of a cauldron.” ⁴ Then they cry to YHWH, || And He does not answer them, || And hides His face from them at that time, || As they have made evil their doings. ⁵ Thus said YHWH concerning the prophets || Who are causing My people to err, || Who are biting with their teeth, || And have cried “Peace,” || And he who does not give to their mouth, || They have sanctified against him war: ⁶ “Therefore you have a night without vision, || And you have darkness without divination, || And the sun has gone in on the prophets, || And the day has been black over them. ⁷ And the seers have been ashamed, || And the diviners have been confounded, || And all of them have covered their lip, || For there is no answer, O God.” ⁸ And yet I have been full of power by the Spirit of YHWH, || And of judgment, and of might, || To declare to Jacob his transgression, || And to Israel his sin. ⁹ Now hear this, O heads of the house of Jacob, || And you judges of the

house of Israel, || Who are making judgment
 abominable, || And pervert all uprightness.
¹⁰ Building up Zion with blood, || And Jerusalem
 with iniquity. ¹¹ Her heads judge for a bribe,
 || And her priests teach for hire, || And her
 prophets divine for silver, || And on YHWH they
 lean, saying, || "Is not YHWH in our midst? Evil
 does not come in on us." ¹² Therefore, for your
 sake, Zion is plowed a field, and Jerusalem is
 heaps, || And the mountain of the house [is] for
 high places of a forest!

4

¹ And it has come to pass, || In the latter end of
 the days, || The mountain of the house of YHWH
 || Is established above the top of the mountains,
 || And it has been lifted up above the hills, ||
 And flowed to it have peoples. ² And gone have
 many nations and said, || "Come and we go up
 to the mountain of YHWH, || And to the house
 of the God of Jacob, || And He teaches us of His
 ways, || And we walk in His paths," || For a law
 goes forth from Zion, || And a word of YHWH
 from Jerusalem. ³ And He has judged between
 many peoples, || And given a decision to mighty
 nations far off, || They have beaten their swords
 to plowshares, || And their spears to pruning-
 hooks, || Nation does not lift up sword to nation,
 || Nor do they learn war anymore. ⁴ And they
 have sat each under his vine, || And under his
 fig tree, || And there is none troubling, || For
 the mouth of YHWH of Hosts has spoken. ⁵ For
 all the peoples walk, || Each in the name of its

god—and we, || We walk in the Name of our God YHWH, || For all time and forever. ⁶ “In that day,” a declaration of YHWH, || “I gather the halting one, || And the driven away one I bring together, || And she whom I have afflicted. ⁷ And I have set the halting for a remnant, || And the far-off for a mighty nation, || And YHWH has reigned over them in Mount Zion, || From now on, and for all time. ⁸ And you, O Tower of Eder, || Fort of the daughter of Zion, to you it comes, || Indeed, the former rule has come in, || The kingdom to the daughter of Jerusalem.” ⁹ Now why do you shout aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, || That pain as of a travailing woman has taken hold of you? ¹⁰ Be pained, and bring forth, O daughter of Zion, || As a travailing woman, || For now you go forth from the city, || And you have dwelt in the field, || And you have gone to Babylon, || There you are delivered, || There YHWH redeems you from the hand of your enemies. ¹¹ And now, many nations have gathered against you, who are saying: “Let her be defiled, and our eyes look on Zion.” ¹² They have not known the thoughts of YHWH, || Nor have they understood His counsel, || For He has gathered them as a sheaf [into] a threshing-floor. ¹³ Arise, and thresh, O daughter of Zion, || For I make your horn iron, || And I make your hooves bronze, || And you have beaten small many peoples, || And I have devoted to YHWH their gain, || And their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth!

5

¹ Now gather yourself together, O daughter of troops, || He has laid a siege against us, || They strike [the] judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod. ² “And you, Beth-Lehem Ephratah, || Little to be among the chiefs of Judah! From you He comes forth to Me—to be ruler in Israel, || And His comings forth [are] of old, || From the days of antiquity.” ³ Therefore He gives them up until the time she who brings forth has brought forth, || And the remnant of His brothers return to the sons of Israel. ⁴ And He has stood and delighted in the strength of YHWH, || In the excellence of the Name of His God YHWH, || And they have remained, || For now He is great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And this [One] has been peace. Asshur, when he comes into our land, || And when he treads in our palaces, || We have raised against him seven shepherds, || And eight anointed of man. ⁶ And they have afflicted the land of Asshur with the sword, || And the land of Nimrod at its openings, || And He has delivered from Asshur when he comes into our land, || And when he treads in our borders. ⁷ And the remnant of Jacob has been in the midst of many peoples, || As dew from YHWH—as showers on the herb, || That does not wait for man, nor stays for the sons of men. ⁸ Indeed, the remnant of Jacob has been among nations, || In the midst of many peoples, || As a lion among beasts of a forest, || As a young lion among ranks of a flock, || Which if it has passed through, || Has both trodden down and has torn, || And there

is no deliverer. ⁹ High is your hand above your adversaries, || And all your enemies are cut off. ¹⁰ “And it has come to pass in that day,” || A declaration of YHWH, || “I have cut off your horses from your midst, || And I have destroyed your chariots, ¹¹ And I have cut off the cities of your land, || And I have thrown down all your fortresses, ¹² And have cut off sorcerers out of your hand, || And observers of clouds—you have none. ¹³ And I have cut off your carved images, || And your standing-pillars out of your midst, || And you do not bow yourself anymore || To the work of your hands. ¹⁴ And I have plucked up your Asherim out of your midst, || And I have destroyed your enemies. ¹⁵ And I have done vengeance in anger and in fury, || With the nations who have not listened!”

6

¹ Now hear that which YHWH is saying: “Rise—strive with the mountains, || And cause the hills to hear your voice. ² Hear, O mountains, the strife of YHWH, || You strong ones—foundations of earth! For a strife [is] to YHWH, with His people, || And with Israel He reasons. 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 from the land of Egypt, || And I have ransomed you from the house of servants, || And I send Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you. ⁵ O My people, please remember || What Balak king of Moab counseled, || What Balaam son of Beor answered

him || (From Shittim to Gilgal), || In order to know the righteous acts of YHWH.” ⁶ With what do I come before YHWH? Do I bow to God Most High? Do I come before Him with burnt-offerings? With calves—sons of a year? ⁷ Is YHWH pleased with thousands of rams? With myriads of streams of oil? Do I give my firstborn [for] my transgression? The fruit of my body [for] the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has declared to you, O man, what [is] good; Indeed, what is YHWH requiring of you, || Except—to do judgment, and love kindness, || And to walk lowly with your God? ⁹ A voice of YHWH calls to the city, || And wisdom fears Your Name, || “Hear the rod, and Him who appointed it. ¹⁰ Are there yet [in] the house of the wicked || Treasures of wickedness, || And the abhorred meager ephah? ¹¹ Do I reckon [it] pure with balances of wickedness? And with a bag of deceitful stones? ¹² Whose rich ones have been full of violence, || And its inhabitants have spoken falsehood, || And their tongue [is] deceitful in their mouth. ¹³ And I also, I have begun to strike you, || To make desolate, because of your sins. ¹⁴ You eat, and you are not satisfied, || And your pit [is] in your midst, || And you remove, and do not deliver, || And that which you deliver, I give to a sword. ¹⁵ You sow, and you do not reap, || You tread the olive, || And you do not pour out oil, || And new wine—and you do not drink wine. ¹⁶ And the statutes of Omri are kept habitually, || And all the work of the house of Ahab, || And you walk in their

counsels, || For My giving you for a desolation,
 || And its inhabitants for a hissing, || And you
 bear the reproach of My people!”

7

¹ My woe [is] to me, || For I have been as
 gatherings of summer-fruit, || As gleanings of
 harvest, || There is no cluster to eat, || The first-
 ripe fruit has my soul desired. ² The kind have
 perished out of the land, || And upright among
 men—there are none, || All of them lie in wait
 for blood, || They each hunt his brother [with]
 a net. ³ On the evil [are] both hands to do [it]
 well, || The prince is asking—also the judge—
 for repayment, || And the great—he is speaking
 the mischief of his soul, || And they wrap it up.
⁴ Their best one [is] as a brier, || The upright
 one—than a thorn-hedge, || The day of your
 watchmen—Your visitation—has come. Now is
 their perplexity. ⁵ Do not believe in a friend, ||
 Do not trust in a leader, || From her who is lying
 in your bosom keep the openings of your mouth.
⁶ For a son is dishonoring a father, || A daughter
 has stood against her mother, || A daughter-in-
 law against her mother-in-law, || The enemies
 of each [are] the men of his house. ⁷ And I—
 in YHWH I watch, || I wait for the God of my
 salvation, || My God hears me. ⁸ You do not
 rejoice over me, O my enemy, || When I have
 fallen, I have risen, || When I sit in darkness
 YHWH is a light to me. ⁹ I bear the indignation
 of YHWH, || For I have sinned against Him, ||
 Until He pleads my cause, || And has executed

my judgment, || He brings me forth to the light,
|| I look on His righteousness. ¹⁰ And my enemy
sees, || And shame covers her, || Who says to
me, “Where [is] your God YHWH?” My eyes look
on her, || Now she is for a treading-place, ||
As mire of the out-places. ¹¹ The day to build
your walls! That day—removed is the limit.
¹² That day—even to you it comes in, || From
Asshur and the cities of the fortress, || And
from the fortress even to the river, || And from
sea to sea, and mountain to mountain. ¹³ And
the land has been for a desolation, || Because
of its inhabitants, || Because of the fruit of
their doings. ¹⁴ Rule Your people with Your rod,
|| The flock of Your inheritance, || Dwelling
alone [in] a forest in the midst of Carmel, ||
They enjoy Bashan and Gilead as in days of old.
¹⁵ “According to the days of your coming forth
out of the land of Egypt, || I show it wonderful
things.” ¹⁶ Nations see, and they are ashamed of
all their might, || They lay a hand on the mouth,
their ears are deaf. ¹⁷ They lick dust as a serpent,
as fearful things of earth, || They tremble from
their enclosures, || They are afraid of our God
YHWH, || Indeed, they are afraid of You. ¹⁸ Who
[is] a God like You? Taking away iniquity, || And
passing by the transgression of the remnant of
His inheritance, || He has not retained His anger
forever, || Because He delights [in] kindness.
¹⁹ He turns back, He pities us, || He subdues
our iniquities, || And You cast all their sins into
the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You give truth to Jacob,

kindness to Abraham, | | That You have sworn to
our fathers, from the days of antiquity!

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