

Micah

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

² Listen, all you peoples.

Listen, earth, and all that is in you.

Let the Lord Yahweh be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

³ Look, Yahweh comes out of his place; he will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

⁴ The mountains will melt under him; the valleys will break apart, like wax before fire,

like waters that are poured down a steep place.

⁵ All this is because of the Jacob's transgression, and because of the sins of the house of Israel. What is Jacob's transgression?

Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah's high place?

Is it not Jerusalem?

⁶ "I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour her stones down into the valley and I will uncover her foundations.

⁷ All her carved figures will be broken to pieces, and all her gifts that she received will be burned with fire, and I will destroy all her idols.

Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes,

they will become the wages of prostitutes again.”

⁸ For this reason I will lament and wail;

I will go barefoot and naked;

I will wail like the jackals

and mourn like owls.

⁹ For her wound is incurable,

for it has come to Judah.

It has reached the gate of my people,

to Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Do not tell about it in Gath;

do not weep at all.

At Beth Leaphrah I roll myself in the dust.

¹¹ Pass by, inhabitants of Shaphir,

in nakedness and shame.

The inhabitants of Zaanan do not come out.

Beth Ezel mourns,

for their protection is taken away.

¹² For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously
for good news,

because disaster has come down from Yahweh
to the gates of Jerusalem.

¹³ Harness the chariot to the team of horses,
inhabitants of Lachish.

You, Lachish, were the beginning of sin for the
daughter of Zion,

for the transgressions of Israel were found in
you.

¹⁴ So you will give a parting gift to Moresheth
Gath;

the town of Akzib will disappoint the kings of
Israel.

¹⁵ I will again bring a conqueror to you,

inhabitants of Mareshah;
the splendor of Israel will come to Adullam.

¹⁶ Shave your head
and cut off your hair
for the children in whom you delight.
Make yourself as bald as eagles,
for your children will go into exile from you.

2

¹ Woe to those who plan iniquity,
to those who plan on their beds to do evil.
In the morning light they do it
because they have power.

² They desire fields and seize them;
they desire houses and take them.
They oppress a man and his house,
a man and his inheritance.

³ Therefore Yahweh says this,
“Look, I am about to bring disaster against this
clan,
from which you will not remove your necks.
You will not walk arrogantly,
for it will be an evil time.

⁴ In that day men will sing a song about you,
and lament with a wailing lamentation.
They will sing, ‘We Israelites are completely
ruined;

Yahweh changes the territory of my people.
How can he remove it from me?
He portions out our fields to traitors!’”

⁵ Therefore, you rich people will have no descen-
dants to divide up the territory by lot
in the assembly of Yahweh.

⁶ “Do not prophesy,”
they say.

“They must not prophesy these things;
reproaches must not come.”

⁷ Should it really be said, house of Jacob,
“Is the Spirit of Yahweh angry?
Are these really his deeds?”

Do not my words do good
to anyone who walks uprightly?

⁸ Lately my people have risen up like an enemy.
You strip the robe, the garment, from those who
pass by unsuspectingly,
as soldiers return from war to what they think
is safety.

⁹ You drive the women belonging to my people
from their pleasant houses;
you take my blessing from their young children
forever.

¹⁰ Get up and leave,
for this is not a place where you can stay,
because of its uncleanness;
it is destroyed with complete destruction.

¹¹ If someone comes to you in a spirit of false-
hood and lies and says,
“I will prophesy to you about wine and strong
drink,”
he would be considered to be a prophet for this
people.

¹² I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob.
I will surely gather the remnant of Israel.
I will bring them together like sheep in a fold,
like a flock in the midst of their pasture.

There will be a loud noise because of the multitude of people.

¹³ Someone who breaks open their way for them will go ahead of them.

They break through the gate and go out; their king will pass on before them. Yahweh will be at their head.

3

¹ I said, “Now listen, you leaders of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not right for you to understand justice?”

² You who hate good and love evil, you who tear off their skin, their flesh from their bones—
³ you who also eat the flesh of my people, and tear their skin off, break their bones, and chop them in pieces, just like meat for a pot, just like meat in a cauldron.

⁴ Then you rulers will cry out to Yahweh, but he will not answer you. He will hide his face from you at that time, because you have done evil deeds.”

⁵ Yahweh says this, “As for the prophets who lead my people astray, if one gives them something to eat, they proclaim, ‘Peace.’ But if he puts nothing in their mouths, they dedicate themselves to wage war on him.

⁶ Therefore, it will be night for you with no vision
for you;

it will be dark so that you will do no divination.
The sun will go down on the prophets,
and the day will be dark on them.

⁷ The seers will be put to shame,
and the diviners will be confused.
All of them will cover their lips,
for there is no answer from me.”

⁸ But as for me, I am full of power by the Spirit
of Yahweh,
and am full of justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression,
and to Israel his sin.

⁹ Now listen to this,
you leaders of the house of Jacob,
and rulers of the house of Israel,
you who detest justice,
and pervert everything right.

¹⁰ You build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with iniquity.

¹¹ Your leaders judge for a bribe,
your priests teach for a price,
and your prophets do divination for money.
Yet you rely on Yahweh and say,
“Is not Yahweh with us?
No evil will come on us.”

¹² Therefore, because of you,
Zion will become a plowed field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
and the hill of the temple will become a thicket.

4

¹ But in the last days it will come about

that the mountain of Yahweh's house
will be established over the other mountains.
It will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

² Many nations will go and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh,
to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
and we will walk in his paths.”

For from Zion the law will go out,
and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.

³ He will judge among many peoples
and will decide concerning numerous nations far
away.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war any longer.

⁴ Instead, they will sit every person under his
vine
and under his fig tree.

No one will make them afraid,
for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts has spoken.

⁵ For all the peoples walk,
each one, in the name of their god.

But we will walk in the name of Yahweh our God
forever and ever.

⁶ “On that day”—this is Yahweh's declaration—
“I will assemble the lame
and gather the outcast,
those whom I have afflicted.

⁷ I will turn the lame into a remnant,
and the ones driven away into a strong nation,

and I, Yahweh, will reign over them on Mount Zion,
now and forever.

⁸ As for you, watchtower for the flock,
hill of the daughter of Zion—
to you it will come, your former dominion will
be restored,
the kingdom that belongs to the daughter of
Jerusalem.

⁹ Now, why do you shout so loudly?
Is there no king among you?
Has your counselor died?
Is this why pain grips you like that of a woman
in labor?

¹⁰ Be in pain
and labor to give birth,
daughter of Zion,
like a woman in labor.
For now you will you go out of the city,
live in the field,
and go to Babylon.

There you will be rescued.
There Yahweh will rescue you
from the hand of your enemies.

¹¹ Now many nations are assembled against you;
they say, 'Let her be defiled;
let our eyes gloat over Zion.'

¹² They do not know Yahweh's thoughts,
neither do they understand his plans,
for he has gathered them like bundles of grain
prepared for the threshing floor.

¹³ Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion,
for I will make your horn to be iron,

and I will make your hooves to be bronze.
 You will crush many peoples and you will devote
 their unjust wealth to Yahweh,
 their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.”

5

¹ Now come together in battle ranks,
 daughter of soldiers;
 the soldiers have set up a siege around city,
 with a rod they will strike the judge of Israel
 on the cheek. *

² But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 even though you are small among the clans of
 Judah,
 out of you one will come to me
 to rule in Israel,
 whose beginning is from ancient times,
 from everlasting.

³ Therefore God will give them up,
 until the time when she who is in labor bears a
 child,
 and the rest of his brothers return to the people
 of Israel.

⁴ He will stand
 and shepherd his flock in the strength of Yahweh,
 in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God.
 They will remain,
 for then he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ For this shall be the peace—

* **5:1** Instead of *come together in battle ranks*, some interpreters translate *cut yourselves*, referring to the pagan practice of cutting oneself while praying to idols. Also, some modern versions follow an ancient version that reads *build up your fortifications*.

when the Assyrians come into our land,
 and when they march against our fortresses,
 then we will raise against them seven shepherds
 and eight leaders over men.

⁶ They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the
 sword,
 and the land of Nimrod in its entrances. †
 He will rescue us from the Assyrians,
 when they come into our land,
 when they march inside our borders.

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 a man,
 and they do not wait for the children of mankind.

⁸ The remnant of Jacob will be among the
 nations,
 among many peoples,
 like a lion among the animals of the forest,
 like a young lion among the flocks of sheep.
 When he goes through them,
 he will trample over them and tear them to
 pieces,
 and there will be no one to save them.

⁹ Your hand will be lifted against your enemies,
 and it will destroy them.

¹⁰ “It will happen in that day”—this is Yahweh's
 declaration—
 “that I will destroy your horses from among you

† 5:6 The Hebrew text has *in its entrances*, that is, *in their gates*.
 However, some modern versions suppose that a different Hebrew
 word was intended: *with a drawn sword*.

and will demolish your chariots.

¹¹ I will destroy the cities in your land
and throw down all your strongholds.

¹² I will destroy the witchcraft in your hand,
and you will no longer have any diviners.

¹³ I will destroy your carved figures
and your stone pillars from among you.
You will no longer worship the workmanship of
your hands.

¹⁴ I will uproot your Asherah poles from among
you,
and I will destroy your cities.

¹⁵ I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath
on the nations that have not listened.”

6

¹ Now listen to what Yahweh says,
“Arise and state your case before the mountains;
let the hills hear your voice.

² Listen to Yahweh's lawsuit, you mountains,
and you enduring foundations of the earth.
For Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people,
and he will fight in court against Israel.”

³ “My people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you?
Testify against me!

⁴ For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt
and rescued you out of the house of bondage.
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to you.

⁵ My people, remember what Balak king of Moab
devised,
and how Balaam son of Beor answered him
as you went from Shittim to Gilgal,

so you may know the righteous acts of Yahweh.”

⁶ What should I bring to Yahweh,
as I bow down to the high God?
Should I come to him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of
rams,
or with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for my own sin?

⁸ He has told you, man,
what is good,
and what Yahweh requires from you:
Act justly,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.

⁹ The voice of Yahweh is making a proclamation
to the city—
even now wisdom acknowledges your name:
“Pay attention to the rod,
and to the one who has put it in place. *

¹⁰ There is wealth in the houses of the wicked
that is dishonest,
and false measures that are abominable.

¹¹ Should I consider a person to be innocent if he
uses fraudulent scales,
with a bag of deceptive weights?

¹² The rich men are full of violence,
the inhabitants have spoken lies,
and their tongue in their mouth is deceitful.

* **6:9** Instead of the Hebrew text's reading of *Pay attention to the rod and to the one who has put it into place*, some modern versions have *Listen, tribe, and those assembled together in the city*.

13 Therefore I will strike you with a terrible blow,
and I will make you desolate because of your
sins.

14 You will eat but not be satisfied;
your emptiness will remain inside you.
You will store goods away but not save,
and what you do save I will give to the sword. †

15 You will sow but not reap;
you will tread the olives but not anoint your-
selves with oil;
you will press grapes but drink no wine.

16 The regulations made by Omri have been kept,
and all the deeds of the house of Ahab.
You walk by their advice.

So I will make you, city, a ruin,
and you inhabitants an object of hissing,
and you will bear the reproach of my people.” ‡

7

1 Woe is me!
I have become like the gathering of summer
fruit,
and like the grapes that have been gleaned;
there is no grape cluster to eat,
no ripe early fig that my soul desires.

2 Faithful people have disappeared from the
land;

† 6:14 Parts of this verse are difficult to understand, because there are two Hebrew words in it whose meanings are not known. As a result, various other readings have been proposed that some modern versions follow. ‡ 6:16 The Hebrew text has *you will bear the reproach of my people*, but an ancient Greek version has *you will bear the scorn of the nations*. Some modern versions follow this reading.

there is no upright person in all mankind.
They all lie in wait to shed blood;
each one hunts his own brother with a net.
³ Their hands are very good at doing harm:
the ruler asks for money,
the judge is ready for bribes,
and the powerful man is saying to others what
he wants to obtain.
Thus they plot together.

⁴ The best of them is like a brier,
the most upright is worse than a thorn hedge.
It is the day foretold by your watchmen,
the day of your punishment.

Now is the time of their confusion.

⁵ Do not trust any neighbor;
put no confidence in any friend.
Be careful about what you say
even to the woman who lies in your arms.

⁶ For a son dishonors his father,
a daughter rises up against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.
A man's enemies are the people 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 over me, my enemy.
After I fall,
I will rise.

When I sit in darkness,
Yahweh will be a light for me.

⁹ Because I sinned against Yahweh,
I will bear his rage
until he pleads my cause,
and executes judgment for me.

He will bring me to the light,
and I will see him rescue me in his justice.

¹⁰ Then my enemy will see it,
and shame will cover the one who said to me,
“Where is Yahweh your God?”
My eyes will look at her;
she will be trampled down like the mud in the
streets.

¹¹ A day to build your walls will come;
on that day the boundaries will be extended very
far.

¹² On that day your people will come to you,
from Assyria and the cities in Egypt,
from Egypt to the River,
from sea to sea,
and from mountain to mountain.

¹³ But the land will be desolate
because of the people who are living there,
because of the fruit of their actions.

¹⁴ Shepherd your people with your rod,
the flock of your inheritance.
They live alone in a thicket,
in the midst of a pastureland.
Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead
as in the old days.

¹⁵ As in the days when you came out of the land
of Egypt,
I will show them wonders.

¹⁶ The nations will see and be ashamed
of all their power.
They will put their hands on their mouths;
their ears will be deaf.

¹⁷ They will lick the dust like a snake,
like creatures that crawl on the earth.

They will come out of their dens with fear;
they will come with fear to you, Yahweh our God,
and they will be afraid because of you.

¹⁸ Who is a God like you—
who takes away sin,
who passes over the transgression of the rem-
nant of his inheritance?
He does not keep his anger forever,
because he delights in his covenant faithfulness.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us;
you will trample our iniquities under your feet.
You will throw all our sins into the depths of the
sea.

²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob
and covenant faithfulness to Abraham,
as you swore to our ancestors in ancient days.

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