Micah

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

2 Hear, all you peoples!
Listen, earth and all that fills it!
Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you,
the Lord from his holy temple.

3 For look, the LORD is coming out of his place.
He will come down and tread on the heights
of the earth.

4 The mountains will melt beneath him, and the
valleys will split open, like wax before
fire, like water poured down a slope.

5 All this is because of Jacob's transgression and
the sins of the house of Israel.
What is Jacob's transgression?
Is it not Samaria?
And what are Judah's high places?
Are they not Jerusalem?

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

7 All her carved images will be shattered, all her
earnings burned with fire, and all her
idols I will lay waste.

For she gathered them from a prostitute's
wages, and to a prostitute's wages they
will return."
8 Because of this I will mourn and wail;
I will go stripped and naked.
I will lament like the jackals and mourn like
the ostriches.
9 For her wounds are incurable;
it has reached Judah.
It has reached the gate of my people, as far
as Jerusalem.
10 Do not tell it in Gath;
do not weep at all.
In Beth-le-aphrah I have rolled myself in
dust.
11 Pass on, inhabitant of Shaphir, in shameful
nakedness.
The inhabitant of Zaanan has not come out;
Beth-ezel's lament takes its support away
from you.
12 For the inhabitant of Maroth waits in anguish
for good, because disaster has come down
from the LORD to the gate of Jerusalem.
13 Harness the chariot to the swift horses,
inhabitant of Lachish.
She was the beginning of sin for daughter
Zion, for Israel's transgressions were
found in you.
14 Therefore you will give farewell gifts to
Moresheth-gath.
The houses of Achzib will be a deception to
the kings of Israel.
15 "I will again bring the conqueror against you,
inhabitant of Mareshah."

Israel's glory will come as far as Adullam.
16 Shave your head and cut off your hair for the
children you delight in.
Make your baldness wide like a vulture's, for
they have gone into exile away from you.

2

1 Woe to those who devise iniquity and plan evil
on their beds!
At morning light they do it, because the
power is in their hands.
2 They covet fields and seize them, houses and
take them away.
They oppress a man and his household, a
man and his inheritance.

3 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "Look, I
am devising disaster against this family,
from which you will not remove your
necks.
You will no longer walk proudly, for it will
be an evil time.
4 On that day they will take up a taunt against
you and lament with a bitter lament,
saying, 'We are utterly devastated!
He changes the portion of my people.
How he takes it from me!
He assigns our fields to the faithless one.'
5 Therefore you will have no one to stretch a
measuring line by lot in the congregation
of the LORD."
6 "Do not preach," they preach.
They will not preach about these things;
disgrace will not depart.

7 Is it said, house of Jacob, “Has the Spirit of the
LORD grown impatient?
Are these his deeds?”
Do not my words do good to the one who
walks uprightly?
8 “But lately my people have risen up as an
enemy.
You strip the cloak from over the garment of
those who pass by securely, returning
from war.
9 You drive the women of my people from the
homes they delight in;
from their little ones you take my splendor
forever.
10 Rise and go, for this is no resting place.
Because of its uncleanness it will bring
destruction, grievous destruction.
11 If a man pursuing wind and falsehood lies,
saying, ‘I will preach to you about wine
and strong drink,’ he would be the
preacher for this people!
12 I will surely gather all of you, Jacob;
I will surely assemble the remnant of Israel.
I will put them together like sheep in a fold,
like a flock in the midst of its pasture;
they will resound with people.
13 The one who breaks through has gone up
before them.
They have broken through, passed through
the gate, and gone out by it.
Their king has passed before them, with the
LORD at their head.”

3

1 I said, “Listen, leaders of Jacob and rulers of
the house of Israel!
Is it not for you to know justice,
2 you who hate good and love evil, who tear the
skin off them and the flesh from their
bones,
3 who eat the flesh of my people, strip their skin
from them, break their bones, and chop
them up as for a pot, like meat in a
cauldron?”
4 Then they will cry to the LORD, but he will not
answer them.
He will hide his face from them at that time,
because they have done evil in their
deeds.

5 This is what the LORD says concerning the
prophets who lead my people astray, who
bite with their teeth and proclaim,
“Peace,” but consecrate war against the
one who puts nothing in their mouths:
6 “Therefore you will have night without vision,
darkness without divination.
The sun will set on the prophets, and the
day will grow dark over them.
7 The seers will be ashamed and the diviners
disgraced.
All of them will cover their upper lips, for
there is no answer from God.”
8 But as for me, I am filled with power, with the
Spirit of the LORD, with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression and
to Israel his sin.

9 Hear this, leaders of the house of Jacob and
rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor
justice and make everything straight
crooked,
10 building Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem
with injustice.
11 Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach
for a price, and her prophets practice
divination for silver.
Yet they lean on the LORD, saying, “Is not the
LORD in our midst?
No disaster will come upon us.”
12 Therefore because of you Zion will be plowed
like a field, Jerusalem will become heaps
of ruins, and the mountain of the temple
will become wooded heights.

4

1 In the latter days the mountain of the house of
the LORD will be established as the
foremost of the mountains and raised
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 the LORD, to the
house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways, and we will walk
in his paths.”
For instruction will go out from Zion, and
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
3 He will judge between many peoples and settle
disputes for mighty nations far away.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not raise sword against nation,
and they will no longer learn war.
4 Each will sit under his vine and under his fig
tree, with no one to make them afraid, for
the mouth of the LORD of hosts has
spoken.
5 For all the peoples walk, each in the name of
his god, but we will walk in the name of
the LORD our God forever and ever.

6 “On that day,” declares the LORD, “I will gather
the one who limps and assemble the
outcast and the one I have afflicted.
7 I will make the one who limps a remnant, and
the one driven far away a mighty nation.
The LORD will reign over them on Mount
Zion from now on and forever.

8 And you, tower of the flock, hill of daughter
Zion—to you it will come: the former
dominion will come, the kingdom for
daughter Jerusalem.”
9 Now why do you cry out so loudly?
Is there no king in you?
Has your counselor perished, that pain has
seized you like a woman in labor?
10 Writhe and bring forth, daughter Zion, like a
woman in labor.
For now you will leave the city and dwell in
the open country;
you will go as far as Babylon.
There you will be rescued;

there the LORD will redeem you from the
hand of your enemies.

11 Now many nations have gathered against you,
saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our
eyes gaze upon Zion.”

12 But they do not know the thoughts of the
LORD or understand his counsel, for he
has gathered them like sheaves to the
threshing floor.

13 “Rise and thresh, daughter Zion, for I will
make your horn iron and your hooves
bronze.
You will crush many peoples, and I will
devote their gain to the LORD, their
wealth to the Lord of all the earth.”

5

1 Now gather in troops, daughter of troops!
He has laid siege against us.
With a rod they will strike the judge of
Israel on the cheek.

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too small to be
among the clans of Judah—from you will
come forth for me one who will rule in
Israel, whose origins are from of old, from
ancient days.”

3 Therefore he will give them up until the time
when she who is to give birth has given
birth.
Then the rest of his brothers will return to
the people of Israel.

4 He will stand and shepherd in the strength of
the LORD, in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.
And they will remain, for now he will be
great to the ends of the earth.
5 He will be peace.
When Assyria enters our land and treads in
our palaces, 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 at its gates.
He will deliver us from Assyria when he
enters our land and treads within our
borders.

7 The remnant of Jacob will be among many
peoples like dew from the LORD, like
showers on the grass, which does not wait
for man or linger for mankind.
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 flocks of sheep,
which tramples and tears as it passes
through, with no one to rescue.
9 Your hand will be lifted against your
adversaries, and all your enemies will be
cut off.

10 “On that day,” declares the LORD, “I will cut off
your horses from your midst and destroy
your chariots.

11 I will cut off the cities of your land and tear
down all your strongholds.
12 I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and
you will have no more soothsayers.
13 I will cut off your carved images and sacred
pillars from your midst, and you will no
longer bow down to the work of your
hands.
14 I will uproot your Asherah poles from your
midst and destroy your cities.
15 In anger and wrath I will take vengeance on
the nations that have not obeyed."

6

1 Hear what the LORD says: "Rise, present your
case before the mountains, and let the
hills hear your voice."
2 Hear the LORD's case, mountains, and you
enduring foundations of the earth.
For the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
3 "My people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you?
Answer me.
4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of
slavery.
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you.
5 My people, remember what Balak king of
Moab planned and what Balaam son of
Beor answered him, and what happened
from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you may
know the righteous acts of the LORD."

6 With what shall I come before the LORD and
bow before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt
offerings, with year-old calves?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of
rams, with tens of thousands 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 told you, man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you but
to do justice, love mercy, and walk
humbly with your God?

9 The voice of the LORD calls to the city, and the
wise will see your name.
Hear the rod and the one who appointed it!
10 Are there still treasures of wickedness in the
wicked man's house, and a scant grain
measure that is accursed?
11 Can I be innocent with wicked scales and a
bag of dishonest weights?
12 Her rich men are full of violence, her
inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is
deceitful in their mouths.
13 "So I too have made you sick by striking you,
laying you waste because of your sins.
14 You will eat but not be satisfied, and
emptiness will remain within you.
You will put things aside but not save them,
and what you save I will give to the sword.
15 You will sow but not reap.

You will tread olives but not anoint yourself
with oil, and tread out new wine but not
drink wine.
16 Omri's statutes are kept, and all the practices
of the house of Ahab;
you walk in their counsels.
So I will make you a desolation and her
inhabitants an object of hissing, and you
will bear the reproach of my people."

7

1 Woe is me!
I am like one gathering summer fruit, like
one gleaning after the grape harvest.
There is no cluster to eat;
my soul craves an early fig.
2 The godly have perished from the land;
there is no one upright among mankind.
All lie in wait for bloodshed;
each hunts his brother with a net.
3 Both hands are skilled at evil.
The prince demands, the judge acts for
payment, and the powerful man speaks
the desire of his soul;
together they weave it.
4 The best of them is like a brier, the most
upright worse than a thorn hedge.
The day of your watchmen, your
punishment, has come.
Now their confusion will come.
5 Do not trust a neighbor;
do not put confidence in a close friend.
Guard the doors of your mouth from her
who lies in your arms.

6 For a son treats his father with contempt;
a daughter rises against her mother, a
daughter-in-law against her
mother-in-law.
A man's enemies are those of his own
household.
7 But as for me, I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation.
My God will hear me.
8 "Do not rejoice over me, my enemy.
Though I have fallen, I will rise;
though I sit in darkness, the LORD is a light
to me.

9 I will bear the LORD's indignation because I
have sinned against him, until he pleads
my cause and executes justice for me.
He will bring me out to the light, and I will
see his righteousness.
10 My enemy will see, and shame will cover her
who said to me, 'Where is the LORD your
God?' My eyes will look upon her;
now she will be trampled like mud in the
streets."
11 A day will come for building your walls;
on that day the boundary will be extended
far.
12 On that day people will come to you from
Assyria and the cities of Egypt, from Egypt
to the River, from sea to sea and from
mountain to mountain.
13 But the land will become desolate because of
its inhabitants, as the fruit of their deeds.

14 Shepherd your people with your staff, the
flock of your inheritance, dwelling alone
in the forest, in the midst of fruitful land.
Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in
the days of old.
15 “As in the days when you came out of the land
of Egypt, I will show him wonders.”
16 Nations will see and be ashamed of all their
might.
They will put their hands over their mouths;
their ears will become deaf.
17 They will lick dust like a snake;
like crawling creatures of the earth they will
come trembling from their strongholds.
They will turn in dread to the LORD our God
and be afraid of you.
18 Who is a God like you, forgiving iniquity and
passing over transgression for the
remnant of his inheritance?
He does not hold on to his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
19 He will again 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 faithfulness to Jacob and
steadfast love to Abraham, as you swore
to our fathers from the days of old.

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