



# MICAH



WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE | AMERICAN EDITION

The Book of

MICAH

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<sup>1</sup>Yahweh's<sup>†</sup> word that came to Micah of Morasheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you peoples, all of you!  
Listen, O earth, and all that is therein.

Let the Lord<sup>‡</sup> Yahweh be witness against you,  
the Lord from his holy temple.

<sup>3</sup>For behold,<sup>§</sup> Yahweh comes out of his place,  
and will come down and tread on the high places  
of the earth.

<sup>4</sup>The mountains melt under him,  
and the valleys split apart like wax before the fire,  
like waters that are poured down a steep place.

<sup>5</sup>"All this is for the disobedience of Jacob,  
and for the sins of the house of Israel.  
What is the disobedience of Jacob?  
Isn't it Samaria?

And what are the high places of Judah?  
Aren't they Jerusalem?

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>All her idols will be beaten to pieces,  
all her temple gifts will be burned with fire,  
and I will destroy all her images;  
for of the hire of a prostitute has she gathered them,  
and to the hire of a prostitute shall they return."

<sup>8</sup>For this I will lament and wail.  
I will go stripped and naked.  
I will howl like the jackals  
and mourn like the ostriches.

<sup>9</sup>For her wounds are incurable;  
for it has come even to Judah.  
It reaches to the gate of my people,  
even to Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>Don't tell it in Gath.  
Don't weep at all.

At Beth Ophrah<sup>†</sup> I have rolled myself in the dust.

<sup>11</sup>Pass on, inhabitant of Shaphir, in nakedness and  
shame.

The inhabitant of Zaanan won't come out.

Notes

<sup>†</sup>1:1 "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

<sup>‡</sup>1:2 The word translated "Lord" is "Adonai."

<sup>§</sup>1:3 "Behold", from "הִנֵּה" , means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

<sup>†</sup> 1:10 Beth Ophrah means literally "House of Dust."

## Notes

The wailing of Beth Ezel will take from you his protection.

<sup>12</sup> For the inhabitant of Maroth waits anxiously for good,

because evil has come down from Yahweh to the gate of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> Harness the chariot to the swift steed, inhabitant of Lachish.

She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion;

for the transgressions of Israel were found in you.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore you will give a parting gift to Moresheth Gath.

The houses of Achzib will be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I will yet bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah.

The glory of Israel will come to Adullam.

<sup>16</sup> Shave your heads, and cut off your hair for the children of your delight.

Enlarge your baldness like the vulture, for they have gone into captivity from you!

## 2

<sup>1</sup> Woe to those who devise iniquity and work evil on their beds!

When the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand.

<sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them, and houses, then take them away.

They oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore Yahweh says:

“Behold, I am planning against these people a disaster,

from which you will not remove your necks, neither will you walk haughtily, for it is an evil time.

<sup>4</sup> In that day they will take up a parable against you, and lament with a doleful lamentation, saying, ‘We are utterly ruined!

My people’s possession is divided up.

Indeed he takes it from me and assigns our fields to traitors!’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Therefore you will have no one who divides the land by lot in Yahweh’s assembly.

<sup>6</sup> “Don’t prophesy!” —they prophesy—

“Don’t prophesy about these things.

Disgrace won’t overtake us.”

<sup>7</sup> Shall it be said, O house of Jacob,



# Notes

†3:7 The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

<sup>5</sup>Yahweh says concerning the prophets who lead my people astray—for those who feed their teeth, they proclaim, "Peace!" and whoever doesn't provide for their mouths, they prepare war against him:

<sup>6</sup>"Therefore night is over you, with no vision, and it is dark to you, that you may not divine; and the sun will go down on the prophets, and the day will be black over them.

<sup>7</sup>The seers shall be disappointed, and the diviners confounded. Yes, they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God."<sup>†</sup>

<sup>8</sup>But as for me, I am full of power by Yahweh's Spirit, and of judgment, and of might, to declare to Jacob his disobedience, and to Israel his sin.

<sup>9</sup>Please listen to this, you heads of the house of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice, and pervert all equity,

<sup>10</sup>who build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

<sup>11</sup>Her leaders judge for bribes, and her priests teach for a price, and her prophets of it tell fortunes for money; yet they lean on Yahweh, and say, "Isn't Yahweh among us? No disaster will come on us."

<sup>12</sup>Therefore Zion for your sake will be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem will become heaps of rubble, and the mountain of the temple like the high places of a forest.

## 4

<sup>1</sup>But in the latter days, it will happen that the mountain of Yahweh's temple will be established on the top of the mountains,

and it will be exalted above the hills; and peoples will stream to it.

<sup>2</sup>Many nations will go and say, "Come! Let's go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."

For the law will go out of Zion, and Yahweh's word from Jerusalem;



# Notes

<sup>13</sup> Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion,  
for I will make your horn iron,  
and I will make your hoofs bronze.  
You will beat in pieces many peoples.  
I will devote their gain to Yahweh,  
and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.

## 5

<sup>1</sup> Now you shall gather yourself in troops,  
daughter of troops.  
He has laid siege against us.  
They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the  
cheek.

<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
being small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you one will come out to me who is to be  
ruler in Israel;  
whose goings out are from of old, from ancient  
times.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> He shall stand, and shall shepherd in the strength  
of Yahweh,  
in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God.  
They will live, for then he will be great to the ends  
of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,  
and the land of Nimrod in its gates.  
He will deliver us from the Assyrian,  
when he invades our land,  
and when he marches within our border.

<sup>7</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples  
like dew from Yahweh,  
like showers on the grass,  
that don't wait for man  
nor wait for the sons of men.

<sup>8</sup> 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;  
who, if he goes through, treads down and tears in  
pieces,  
and there is no one to deliver.

<sup>9</sup> Let your hand be lifted up above your adversaries,





# Notes

†6:10 An ephah is a measure of volume (about 22 liters or about 2/3 of a bushel), and a short ephah is made smaller than a full ephah for the purpose of cheating customers.

<sup>9</sup>Yahweh's voice calls to the city—  
and wisdom fears your name—  
“Listen to the rod,  
and he who appointed it.  
<sup>10</sup>Are there yet treasures of wickedness in the house  
of the wicked,  
and a short ephah<sup>†</sup> that is accursed?  
<sup>11</sup>Shall I tolerate dishonest scales,  
and a bag of deceitful weights?  
<sup>12</sup>Her rich men are full of violence,  
her inhabitants speak lies,  
and their tongue is deceitful in their speech.  
<sup>13</sup>Therefore I also have struck you with a grievous  
wound.  
I have made you desolate because of your sins.  
<sup>14</sup>You shall eat, but not be satisfied.  
Your hunger will be within you.  
You will store up, but not save,  
and that which you save I will give up to the  
sword.  
<sup>15</sup>You will sow, but won't reap.  
You will tread the olives, but won't anoint yourself  
with oil;  
and crush grapes, but won't drink the wine.  
<sup>16</sup>For the statutes of Omri are kept,  
and all the works of Ahab's house.  
You walk in their counsels,  
that I may make you a ruin,  
and your inhabitants a hissing.  
You will bear the reproach of my people.”

## 7

<sup>1</sup>Misery is mine!  
Indeed, I am like one who gathers the summer  
fruits, as gleanings of the vineyard.  
There is no cluster of grapes to eat.  
My soul desires to eat the early fig.  
<sup>2</sup>The godly man has perished out of the earth,  
and there is no one upright among men.  
They all lie in wait for blood;  
every man hunts his brother with a net.  
<sup>3</sup>Their hands are on that which is evil to do it  
diligently.  
The ruler and judge ask for a bribe.  
The powerful man dictates the evil desire of his  
soul.  
Thus they conspire together.  
<sup>4</sup>The best of them is like a brier.  
The most upright is worse than a thorn hedge.  
The day of your watchmen,  
even your visitation, has come;



# Notes

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.

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, who pardons iniquity,  
and passes over the disobedience of the remnant of  
his heritage?

He doesn't retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in loving kindness.

<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us.

He will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup> You will give truth to Jacob,

and mercy to Abraham,

as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of  
old.

