

Micah 1

Jesus

Jonah prophesied in 760 BC

Micah prophesied 38 years later in 722 BC

Nahum prophesied 110 years later in 612 BC

Assyria repents and turns to God

Assyria attacks Northern Kingdom

Assyria destroyed by Babylon/Medes

- **Subject:** Prophecies against Samaria/Jerusalem. Primarily the Northern Kingdom
- **Author:** Micah of Moresheth Lit. ***Who is like the LORD?***
- **Ch's 1-3** Who is like the LORD in **Proclaiming**
- **Ch's 1-4** Who is like the LORD in **Prophesying**
- **Ch 7** Who is like the LORD in **Pleading**
- **Ch 8** Who is like the LORD in **Pardoning** [JV McGee]

Currently: Assyria has begun to invade the Northern Kingdom/Samaria

Plan: Move south to Judah/Jerusalem...

I. Coming Judgment

1 The **word of the LORD** that came to **Micah of Moresheth** in the days of [Kings] Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning **Samaria** and **Jerusalem**.

- **Micah's Home:** Moresheth of Judah/Gath
 1. Border of Judah/Philistines
 2. 24 mi SW of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 26:18 Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of **Hezekiah** king of Judah...

- **Contemporary Kings:** Jotham/Ahaz/**Hezekiah** of Judah [739-686 BC]
- **Contemporary Prophets:** Isaiah/Hosea/Amos

The Word of the LORD which Micah saw...

2 Peter 1:21 ... prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Concerning Samaria/Jerusalem

Judgment on the Northern/Southern Kingdoms *and the entire earth...*

2 Hear, **all you peoples!** Listen, **O earth**, and all that is in it!

Broad range of recipients...

All Israel/All current/future people of the earth including those of today

2b... Let the LORD God be a witness against you, The LORD from His holy temple.

The LORD takes the stand

Witnessing/Testifying against all earth-dwellers from Heaven

Psalm 11:4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; **His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.**

The Lord convenes court beginning w/Samaria

- **Verdict:** Guilty
- **Charge:** Idolatry
- **Evidence:** High Places

3 For behold, the LORD is coming out of **His place; He will come down** And tread on the **high places** of the earth.

- **High Places:** That which we exalt above God w/our time/mind/effort/money
 1. Godlessness
 2. Pleasure
 3. Wickedness
 4. Greed
 5. Status
 6. Selfishness all exemplified in man-made High Places

The LORD is leaving His place in Heaven to judge the high places of men on earth
All that we exalt/trust in above/In place of God... He is coming to tread down...

4 The **mountains will melt under Him**, And the **valleys will split** Like wax before the fire, **Like waters poured down** a steep place.

Natural/Supernatural Disasters the Creator uses/causes/allows
Fires/Floods/Earthquakes/Hurricanes/Tornados at His disposal

Amos 4:13 ...He who **forms mountains**, and **creates the wind**, Who declares to man what his thought is, and makes the morning darkness, **Who treads the high places** of the earth—**The LORD God of hosts is His name.**

Amos 9:5 [Contemporary w/Micah] The LORD God of hosts, He who **touches the earth and it melts** ...**5** All this is for the transgression of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel. **What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria?** And what *are* the high places of Judah? *Are they* not Jerusalem?

IOWs Jerusalem followed Samaria into Idolatry
Both were commanded to destroy High Places...Not build their own

Deuteronomy 33:29 [Moses] Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, **And you shall tread down their high places."**

They have become worse than the pagans they were called to destroy, so...
Your cities will pour down the mountainside like water

6 "Therefore, I will make **Samaria a heap** of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I

will **uncover her foundations**. 7 All her carved images shall be **beaten to pieces**, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."

The Assyrians Israel trusted in are now invading
Spiritual Prostitution. Should have danced w/the One who bring you...

Hosea 2:5 ...I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.

God said no. They said yes. Here they are
Their lovers/sin will now be their demise...

Romans 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of **which you are now ashamed?** For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Everything they trusted in will disappear forever...

Luke 12:20 But God said to him, 'Fool! **This night your soul will be required of you;** then whose will those things be which you have provided?' [Gavin Newsom?]

Matthew 6:19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **where your treasure is**, there your heart will be also ...**24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon ...33** But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.



We live **the now** considering **the then**. IOWs It's all gonna burn
In 722 BC Samaria/Ivory Palaces became a heap. Micah saw it...

II. Mourning

8 [Micah speaking] Therefore **I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing** like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches...

Micah Wailing/Howling/Naked. Why?

9 For her [Samaria's] **wounds are incurable.**

Samaria has Self-inflicted/Incurable Wounds
Infected/Putrefying/Spreading...

9b... For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people—To Jerusalem.

Isaiah 8:7b ...The king of Assyria and all his glory; He will go up over all his channels And go over all his banks. 8 He will pass through Judah...

Incurable wounds? Only one unforgivable sin
IOWs If you're still willing/able to bring your sins to God...there is still a cure for you

Our only incurable wounds are the ones we refuse to bring to God. With Him, all things are possible, but when we refuse to bring our sin to Him, *then our wounds are incurable*. [Guzik]

There is a point when a sinner's rebellious heart becomes too hard to hear
Israel has reached that point...Judah still has a chance

Micah walking the streets Wailing/Howling/Naked...

10 Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all...

Gath: Near Micah's home
Painful to think the Philistines would rejoice Israel's destruction

10b [Tell it not...] In **Beth Aphrah** Roll yourself in the dust. 11 Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of **Shaphir** The inhabitant of **Zaanen** [lit. going out] does not go out. **Beth Ezel** mourns; Its place to stand is taken away from you. 12 For the inhabitant of **Maroth** pined for good, But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem. 13 O inhabitant of **Lachish**, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds (She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), For the transgressions of Israel were found in you. 14 Therefore you shall give presents to **Moreseth** Gath; The houses of **Achzib** shall be a lie to the kings of Israel. 15 I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of **Mareshah**; The glory of Israel shall come to **Adullam**.

Speaking of judgment coming upon Judah
Micah utilizes a play on words for specific city names

Gath: The command "Tell it not in Gath" echoes David's lament after King Saul's death, implying that Judah's downfall will be as scandalous as Israel's royal tragedy.

Beth-Aphrah: This name, meaning "House of Dust," is a wordplay on the command to "roll in the dust". The inhabitants will literally become dust, symbolizing profound mourning and humiliation for their sin.

Shaphir: The name of this town means "beautiful" or "lovely," but it will be brought to shame and ruin.

Zaanen: This name sounds like the Hebrew word for "go out" or "move out," a grim reminder that the people will be forced to flee.

Maroth: The name sounds like the Hebrew word for "bitter" or "bitterness".

Beth-ezel: This name is a play on "neighbor," suggesting the enemy will encamp right beside them and take possession of their land.

Lachish: This town was known to have introduced idolatrous practices from Egypt. Its name is a reminder that it will become "entangled" in God's judgment.

Moreseth-gath: The prophet's hometown, whose name means "possession" or "inheritance". It will be "given as a dowry," suggesting it will be taken away as a consequence of Israel's sin.

Achzib: The name of this town means "lie" or "deceit," indicating it will be a source of deception and unreliability for the inhabitants.

Mareshah: This name means "inheritance" or "possession". The invaders will "possess" it, taking away what belongs to the people.

Adullam: While no specific pun is mentioned, the city was a historical refuge for David, but now the people will be forced into exile there.

The Book of Micah has been called a Mini-Isaiah
Isaiah pleads w/Jerusalem to repent...

Isaiah 1:1 The vision of Isaiah...concerning **Judah and Jerusalem**. 5b ...**The whole head is sick**, And the whole heart faints. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment ...**18 "Come now, and let us reason together,"** Says the LORD, "Though your **sins are like scarlet**, They shall be as **white as snow**; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 **But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured** by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

IOWs Wake up Jerusalem: Disaster is already happening to Samaria
Learn and Turn while you have an opportunity

Isaiah 36:2 Then the king of Assyria sent... a great army... to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.

Judah responded to Micah...King Hezekiah's brought about a great reform!
God relented judgment on Judah for 135 yrs

IOWs They learned from the mistakes of others. Learn/Turn
Micah again addresses doomed Samaria...

16 Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of your precious children; Enlarge your baldness like an eagle, For **they shall go from you into captivity**.

After numerous warnings that's where they went...surprise!
You fools. This night your souls will be required of you!

Micah 2

Jesus

I. Woe to Evildoers

1 Woe to those who **devise iniquity**, And work out [lit. plan] evil on their beds! **At morning light they practice it**, Because it is in the power of their hand. 2 They **covet fields** and **take them by violence**, Also houses, and seize them. So they **oppress a man** and his house, A man and his inheritance.

The LORD now takes the stand as a witness against Earth Dwellers
Those who use Power/Influence for evil against others

- **Invent ways to sin:** Pre-meditated ways to sin/condone sin

Romans 1:30 ...backbiters, God haters, violent, proud, boasters, **inventors of evil things...**

- **Sin in broad daylight:** Get an early start after devising evil in the sight of God
- **Covet/Steal:** Houses/Inheritance/Possessions of others
- Not to mention child sacrifice...

Exact opposite of the God's will for His prize creation human beings
Love one another as you love yourself

Jeremiah 6:15 [No shame] Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; **Nor did they know how to blush.** Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord.

3 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, **against this family I am devising disaster**, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, **For this is an evil time.**

The LORD sits as a Judge against the family of Earth-dwellers

- **You devise** evil toward each other/I will devise evil against you
- **You walk** w/outstretched neck/I will put your necks in stocks

An evil time is a time to walk in wisdom
An evil time is a time to use the time we have wisely

Ephesians 5:15 ... walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

- Walk wisely in fear of the LORD
 1. Discretion: Consider the options before acting
 2. Discernment: Knowing good enable and choosing good
 3. Discipline: Keeping our minds/bodies under submission by Spirit.

During an evil time it's high time to walk in Wisdom

4 In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! **To a turncoat He has divided our fields.**'" 5 Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

Why do we wait until disaster comes to turn to God?
Disaster was prophesied to warn/People sought to silence the messenger..

II. Enemies of the Word

6 "**Do not prattle,**" you say to those who prophesy [lit. drip words]. **So they shall not prophesy** to you [to these]; They **shall not return insult for insult** [lit. not take shame]. 7 You who are named the house of Jacob: "**Is**

the Spirit of the LORD restricted? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?

Is it My Spirit who is led you astray? No.
My Spirit leads My people in right ways to do right things

8 "Lately My people have **risen up as an enemy**— You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war. 9 The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.

- Our actions reveal if we are an enemy or friend of God...

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

Those who try to silence God's Word are God's enemies. Period.
You want to silence My Word because you want to continue to sin against your brother

John 3:19 And **this is the condemnation**, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

10 "Arise and depart, **For this is not your rest**; Because **it is defiled**, it shall **destroy**, Yes, with utter destruction.

Are you listening to stupid people telling you what you want to hear?
Their words corrupt/defile/destroy...Simply condone the evil you already want to do

11 If a man should **walk in a false spirit** And **speak a lie**, saying, 'I will prophesy [lit. drip] to you of **wine and drink**,' **Even he would be the prattler of this people.**

You parrot vulgar/godless talking points to convince yourself what your doing is okay
...then seek out others who condone it. False-prophets have a field day!

Isaiah 30:10 [You] Who say to the [true] seers, "Do not see," And to the [true] prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; **Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.**

Jeremiah 5:30 An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: 31 The **prophets prophesy falsely**, And the priests rule by their own power; And **My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?**

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will **heap up for themselves teachers**; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Accepting of any so-called prophet who would tell them what they want to hear

In this case those who can tell them where to find the booze! [c.f. Amos]

III. Israel's Future Restoration

12 "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel"

Judgements pronounced on Samaria/Judah/Earth Dwellers
Micah now sees the 2700 yrs. into the future re. Israel's Restoration...

12b... I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 ...14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and am known by My own. ...16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

The Remnant of Israel will gather after the church is taken
Battered/broken/humbled by the Trib accept the Savior they once rejected

Micah 4:6 "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted; 7 I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on, even forever."

Jeremiah 31:10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered [National] Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

12c ...They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

Q. How many people will be in the future Jewish remnant?
A. Enough to make a really loud noise

13 The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it

The One who breaks/Lit The Breaker Jesus Christ
He will be the One who breaks the chains of sin for the Jewish people

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

13b ...Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head."

Hosea 3:5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

Jesus leading. David next. All Gods people together as one for 1000 yrs

Followed by Jews/Gentiles together forever in the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:12 Also she [New Jerusalem] had a great and high wall with **twelve gates**, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the **twelve tribes** of the children of Israel ...**14** Now the wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb.