

Micah 5

Jesus

Micah 4: Jerusalem will be the ruling center of the earth

Micah 5: Jerusalem will be humbled...

I. The Coming Messiah

1 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; **They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.**

Assyria/Babylon will humble the leaders of God's people

In 135 years, nothing will be left of the land/people
Yet God promised Abraham and David a remnant...

2 "But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me **The One to be Ruler** in Israel, Whose goings forth [origins] are from of old, **From everlasting."**

A Ruler will rise from the Little Town of Bethlehem...

- **Bethlehem:** House of Bread/Hometown of David

Though Israel/Judah will be cut down
From that stump will sprout a Branch of Life

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And **a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**

- **Ephrathah:** Ash heap/Place of **fruitfulness**

A Ruler will rise. Changing Israel from an Ash Heap to a place of Fruitfulness

Ash can be good for plants as it provides valuable nutrients like potassium/calcium and can raise soil Ph.

Jesus was born in the **house of fruitfulness**; from which comes my fruitfulness and your fruitfulness my brother...but from [little] Bethlehem? Our poor barren hearts never produced one fruit or flower till they were watered with the Savior's blood [Spurgeon].

A Ruler w/no beginning/A Ruler w/No end...

Revelation 22:13 I am the **Alpha and the Omega**, the **Beginning and the End**, the **First and the Last.**

3 **Therefore He shall give them up**, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then **the remnant** of His brethren **Shall return** to the children of Israel.

▪ **Therefore:**

1. Because Jesus is eternal/has all the time He needs
2. Because He was rejected at His first coming...

He will wait to come back to a generation that will embrace Him
IOWs After His rejection...He gave them up for a time

Matthew 12:24 This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. ...**31** Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit** will not be forgiven men. [c.f. Mark 4:28]

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
Rejecting the Spirit's revelation of who Jesus is/Our need of Salvation

Jesus was rejected by the Jews at His First Coming
Jesus will be embraced by the Jews at His Second Coming. Then...

4 And He shall stand and feed His flock **In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God**

Matthew 2:6 [Liberties w/Micah quote] 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are **not the least among the rulers** of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

▪ Micah 5:2 vs Mat 2:6

1. **Bethlehem:** Little among thousands
2. **Ruler:** Not least among rulers
3. One who will **shepherd My people...**

Isaiah 40:11 He will **feed His flock like a shepherd**; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And **carry them in His bosom**, And **gently lead** those who are with young.

...4b [Their response?] And **they shall abide**, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; **5** And **this One shall be peace...**

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near **by the blood of Christ**. **14** For **He Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **15** having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, **thus making peace**, , **16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body **through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. **17** And He came and **preached peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near. **18** For through Him **we both have access by one Spirit to the Father**.

Jesus came that we might have Peace **with God**

Colossians 1:19 ... it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made **peace through the blood of His cross**. **21** And you, who **once were alienated and enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet now **He has reconciled** **22** in

the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight...

Jesus came that we might have the Peace **of God**

Philippians 4:5b ...The LORD is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the **peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, **My peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 ...let the **peace of God** rule in your hearts [False sympathies/emotions].

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in **perfect peace**, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Jesus came that we might have Peace **with** God
Jesus came that we might have the Peace **of** God

This One shall be our peace even when our enemy is at the door..

III. Judgment on Israel's Enemies

5b ...When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men. 6 They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.

God will deliver Judah from the hand of the Assyrian. When?

- **Near Prophecy:** In 21 Yrs Assyria lays siege to Jerusalem/ 1 Angel vs 185,000
- **Distant Prophecy:** When Jesus comes back to destroy the Anti-Christ

Isaiah 14:25 That **I will break the Assyrian in My land**, And on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his **yoke shall be removed from them**, And his **burden removed from their shoulders**.

7 Then the **remnant of Jacob Shall be in the midst of many peoples**, Like **dew from the LORD**, Like showers on the grass, That tarry for no man Nor wait for the sons of men. 8 And the **remnant of Jacob Shall be among the Gentiles**, In the midst of many peoples, Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Who, if he passes through, Both treads down and tears in pieces, And none can deliver.

Micah's Focus: Believing Remnant of Israel in the Millenium
Gentile Nations now subservient

Deuteronomy 28:13 [Blessings] And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

▪ **Isaiah 19:18-25 In that day...**

1. Egypt will speak the language of Canaan
2. Egypt will swear by the LORD of hosts
3. There will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt
4. God will Egypt a Savior/Mighty One. He will deliver them
5. Egyptians will know the LORD in that day
6. There will be a highway from **Egypt through Israel to Assyria**
7. **God will declare...**

Blessed is Egypt My people/Assyria the work of My hands/Israel My Inheritance
IOWs Egypt/Assyria others will get on board w/God's plan

Numbers 24:9 'He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?'
"Blessed is he who blesses you And cursed is he who curses you."

Micah continues to prophesy of the coming Kingdom Age

9 Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries, And **all your enemies shall be cut off.** 10 "And it shall be **in that day**," says the LORD, "That I will cut off your horses from your midst And destroy your chariots. 11 I will cut off the cities of your land And throw down all your strongholds. 12 I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you shall have no soothsayers. 13 Your carved images I will also cut off, And your sacred pillars from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands; 14 I will pluck your wooden images from your midst; Thus I will destroy your cities.

Everything you trusted in...I will cut off

Zechariah 13:2 [God is going to clean house] "It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "that **I will cut off the names of the idols from the land**, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.

In that Day: Everything you have trusted in...I will cut off
Even things that are not intrinsically evil

- Horses/Chariots
- Cities/Strongholds
- Sorcerers/Soothsayers
- Carved Images/Sacred Pillars...why horses?

Deuteronomy 17:16 [Law for Kings] But he shall **not multiply horses** for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; **But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.**

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And **rely on horses**, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who **do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord!**

What do we still trust in/Give our time to/Set our minds on?
What is not intrinsically bad...but bad for us because it's an idol?

1 John 5:21 Little children, **keep yourselves from idols**. Amen.

- Idolatry is the worship of demons

1 Corinthians 10:20... the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they **sacrifice to demons** and not to God, and I do not want you to have **fellowship with demons**. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the **cup of demons**; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the **table of demons**. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?

The dearest idol I have known, Whatever that idol be
Help me to tear it from thy throne, And worship only thee.
So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame
So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

- Idols are demon magnets

15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury On the nations that have not heard."

God will judge any Nation that attempts to entice God's people with idols

Micah 6

Jesus

Back to present as Micah continues throw down...

I. God Pleads with Israel

1 Hear now what the LORD says: "**Arise, plead your case** before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice. 2 Hear, O you mountains, **the LORD's complaint**, And you strong foundations of the earth; For **the LORD has a complaint against His people**, And He will contend with Israel.

You have a complaint against Me?
Shouldn't I have a complaint against you?

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, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Exactly how have I wearied you?

Isaiah 43:22 "But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; And **you have been weary of Me**, O Israel. 23 You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with grain offerings, **Nor wearied you with incense.**

Malachi 1:13 You also say, '**Oh, what a weariness!**' And **you sneer at it,**" Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

I rescued you

Deuteronomy 4:20 But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.

So, what is your complaint against Me?

Jeremiah 2:5 Thus says the LORD: "**What injustice have your fathers found in Me**, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters?

Isaiah 5:4 **What more could have been done** to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the LORD."

Numbers 22:King of Moab Balak paid Balaam to curse Israel
God would not allow Balaam to curse but only bless Israel

In light of this, Israel must remember that God could never be persuaded to curse Israel, except if they brought curses on themselves through their own idolatry and disobedience. In the prophet's courtroom God showed Israel that if they felt cursed in any way, it was entirely their responsibility. [Guzik]

What is your excuse for this wickedness?
The defendant w/bitter resentment/sarcasm...

6 With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, **The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

Blinded to God's goodness and character, he reasons within his own depraved frame of reference. He need not change; God must change... His willingness to raise the price does not reflect his generosity but veils a complaint that God demands too much. [Waltke]

What do you require from us?
Our sons and daughters? Really?

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to **do justly**, To **love mercy**, And to **walk humbly** with your God?

Behavior is a symptom of the heart. Israel and Judah had a heart problem. It was never about what they could do for God that God desired but simply a heart-felt response for what He has done for them. [NJC]

- **Do** Justly
- **Love** Mercy
- **Walk** in Humility with your God

Hosea 6:6 ...I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice, And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.

Hosea 12:6 So you, by the help of your God, return [repent] ; **Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually.**

Revelation 2:4 ...I have this against you, that you have **left your first love.**

Do Justly/Love Mercy/Walk Humbly and...
Teach the next generation...

Genesis 18:19 [God of Abe] For **I have known him**, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, **that they keep the way of the LORD**, to do **righteousness and justice...**

II. Punishment of Israel's Injustice

9 The LORD's voice cries to the city— Wisdom shall see Your name: "Hear the rod! Who has appointed it? 10 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness In the house of the wicked, And the short measure that is an abomination? 11 Shall I count pure those with the wicked scales, And with the bag of deceitful weights?

Pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but **shouts in our pains**: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. [Lewis]

They blamed their wickedness on God being too harsh
The truth is they were wicked because they were wicked and liked it

- **Began w/Greed:** The root of *all kinds of evil*
 1. Unlawful self-gain
 2. Cheating the poor. Using the ways of the world...

Hosea 12:7 [God of rebellious Israel] "A **cunning Canaanite!** Deceitful scales are in his hand; He loves to oppress.

12 For her rich men are full of violence, Her inhabitants have spoken lies, And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. 13 "Therefore, I will also make you sick by striking you, By making you desolate because of your sins. 14 You shall eat, but not be satisfied; Hunger shall be in your

midst. You may carry some away, but shall not save them; And what you do rescue I will **give over to the sword**. 15 "You shall **sow, but not reap**; You shall tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; And make sweet wine, but not drink wine.

Curse Discontentment/My peace I take back from you

Deuteronomy 28:38 [Curse for disobedience] "You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. 39 You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. 40 You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.

Amos 5:11because you tread down the poor And take grain taxes from him, Though you have built houses of hewn stone, Yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, But you shall not drink wine from them.

16 For the **statutes of Omri are kept**; All the **works of Ahab's house are done**; And you walk in their counsels, That I **may make you a desolation**, And your **inhabitants a hissing**. Therefore, you shall bear the reproach of My people."

You follow the Laws of Omri and Ahab
Greed leading to Gross Idolatry culminating in Child Sacrifice

1 Kings 16:25 Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him. 26 For he walked **in all the ways of Jeroboam** the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

1 Kings 16:30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, **more than all who were before him**.

1 Kings 21:25 ...there was no one like Ahab who **sold himself to do wickedness** in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. 26 And he **behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done...**

Idolatry became worse and worse...Judgment was imminent
Q. Does God desire to Bless or to Curse His prize Creation?

Isaiah 1:18 "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.

Deuteronomy 28:1 [Blessings for Obedience] "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will **set you high above all nations of the earth**. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God [c.f. to v 14]

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in **perfect peace**, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.