

# Minor Prophets

God's Judgment and Salvation Are Coming!

## The Prophet Micah: Kingdoms Will Fall but the King Will Rise

### Introduction

Leadership is a precious calling from the LORD. Generally, we speak of leadership in three areas of society. What are they? How does he want that gift to be exercised?

### Micah 3:1-4

- <sup>1</sup> Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel.  
Should you not know justice,
- <sup>2</sup> you who hate good and love evil;  
who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones;
- <sup>3</sup> who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces;  
who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot?"
- <sup>4</sup> Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them.  
At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done."

1.) For what crimes was the LORD rebuking the rulers of Israel? Why should they have known better?

2.) God's response to the ruler's misconduct seems uncharacteristic of his typical response to injustice. Why would he do so?

### Micah 3:5-7

- <sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says: "As for the prophets who lead my people astray,  
if one feeds them, they proclaim 'peace';  
if he does not, they prepare to wage war against him.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination.  
The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them.
- <sup>7</sup> The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced.  
They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God."

1.) How were the spiritual leaders of Israel (in this case the prophets) engaging in oppression? What would be the consequence?

### **Micah 3:8-12**

- <sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.
- <sup>9</sup> Hear this, you leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel,  
who despise justice and distort all that is right;
- <sup>10</sup> who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness.
- <sup>11</sup> Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes  
for money.  
Yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come  
upon us."
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field,  
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

- 1.) Describe the attitude and message of the LORD's true prophet.
- 2.) How were the false leaders misusing their "most favored nation status" with the LORD? (v.11)

### **Micah 4:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup> In the last days  
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains;  
it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.
- <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come 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, so that we may walk in his paths."  
The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- <sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and  
wide.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
- <sup>4</sup> Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.
- <sup>5</sup> All the nations may walk in the name of their gods;  
we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.
- <sup>6</sup> "In that day," declares the LORD,  
"I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief.
- <sup>7</sup> I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation.  
The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.
- <sup>8</sup> As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion,  
the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of  
Jerusalem."

- 1.) What do the Scriptures mean by "the last days"? (cf. Joel)

2.) Describe God's kingdom during that time in regards to...

- It's size and composition. (v. 1-2, 6-7)
- The source of its growth. (v. 2, 5)
- Life for its inhabitants. (v. 3b-4)
- Its ruler. (v. 6-8)

**Micah 4:9-5:5a**

- <sup>9</sup> Why do you now cry aloud—have you no king?  
Has your counselor perished, that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?
- <sup>10</sup> Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor,  
for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field.  
You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued.  
There the LORD will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.
- <sup>11</sup> But now many nations are gathered against you.  
They say, "Let her be defiled, let our eyes gloat over Zion!"
- <sup>12</sup> But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD;  
they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.
- <sup>13</sup> Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron;  
I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces many nations."  
You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.
- <sup>5:1</sup> Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us.  
They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.
- <sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth  
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
- <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5a</sup> And he will be their peace.

1.) What does Micah tell the faithful of Judah would happen in the meantime? (v. 9-5:1) How long would this last? (5:3)

2.) While the kingdom of Judah would be humbled, what reason does God give the faithful to hope? (5:2, 4-5a)

### **Micah 5:5b-15**

- <sup>5b</sup> When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses,  
we will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.
- <sup>6</sup> They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.  
He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he invades our land and marches into our  
borders.
- <sup>7</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD,  
like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind.
- <sup>8</sup> The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples,  
like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep,  
which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue.
- <sup>9</sup> Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be  
destroyed.
- <sup>10</sup> "In that day," declares the LORD,  
"I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots.  
<sup>11</sup> I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds.  
<sup>12</sup> I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells.  
<sup>13</sup> I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you;  
you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.  
<sup>14</sup> I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities.  
<sup>15</sup> I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."

1.) Our God is the master of using adverse circumstances to accomplish his eternal purposes. While the Israelites would be scattered in exile, what would God accomplish through them? (v. 7-9)

2.) In v. 10 the "you" is referring to "the nations that have not obeyed me" in v. 15. On that day (Judgment Day) what will God do? (v. 10-15)

**NEXT TIME: Micah 6-7**

**Closing Prayer**