Micah

CHAPTER 1

**Against Samaria and Jerusalem**

The word of Yahweh that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. 2Hear, you peoples, all of you. Listen, O earth, and all that is therein: and let the Lord Yahweh be witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple. 3For behold, Yahweh comes forth out of His place, and will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. 4The mountains melt under him, and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like waters that are poured down a steep place. 5“All this is because of 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? 6Therefore 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. 7All her idols will be beaten to pieces, and all her temple gifts will be burned with fire, and all her images will be destroyed; for as the hire of a prostitute has she obtained them, and to the hire of a prostitute shall they return.”

**Lamentation and Wailing**

 8For this I will lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will howl like the jackals, and moan like the daughters of owls. 9For her wounds are incurable; and it has come even to Judah. It reaches to the gate of my people, even to Jerusalem. 10Don’t tell it in Gath. Don’t weep at all. At Beth Ophrah I have rolled myself in the dust. 11Pass on, inhabitant of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame. The inhabitant of Zaanan won’t come out. When you hear the wailing of Beth Ezel, you will know there is no protection there. 12For the inhabitant of Maroth waits anxiously hoping for good, but evil has come down from Yahweh to the gate of Jerusalem. 13Harness 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. 14Therefore you will give a parting gift to Moresheth Gath. The houses of Achzib will be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel. 15I will yet hand you over to your enemy, inhabitant of Mareshah. The leader who is the glory of Israel will come to hide in the Adullam cave. 16Shave 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!

CHAPTER 2

**The Plans of Man and the Plans of God**

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. 2They covet fields, and seize them; and houses, and take them away: and they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage. 3Therefore thus says Yahweh: “Behold, I am planning against these people a disaster, from which you will not remove your necks, neither will you walk proudly; for it is an evil time. 4In 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!’”. 5Therefore you will have no one who divides the land by lot in the assembly of Yahweh.

**There are False Prophets**

6“Don’t preach!”, they preach, “Don’t preach about these things. Disgrace won’t overtake us.” 7Shall it be said, O house of Jacob: “Is the Spirit of Yahweh restrained? Are these His doings?”. Don’t My words do good to him who walks blamelessly? 8But lately My people have risen up as an enemy. You strip the robe and clothing from those who pass by, confidently assuming that they aren’t in danger. 9You drive the women of My people out from their pleasant houses; from their young children you take away My blessing forever. 10Arise, and depart! For this is not your resting place, because of your uncleanness that destroys, even with a grievous destruction. 11If a man walking in a spirit of falsehood lies: “I will prophesy to you of wine and of strong drink”; he would be the prophet of this people.

**The Promise of Deliverance**

12I will surely assemble, Jacob, all of you; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as a flock in the midst of their pasture; they will swarm with people. 13He who opens the breach goes up before them. They break through and pass the gate, and go out. And their king passes on before them, with Yahweh at their head.

CHAPTER 3

**God’s Rebuke of the People’s Leaders**

I said, “Please listen, you heads of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel: Isn’t it for you to know justice? 2You who hate the good, and love the evil; who tear off their skin, and their flesh from off their bones; 3who also eat the flesh of My people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones, and chop them in pieces for the pot, and as flesh within the cauldron. 4Then they will cry to Yahweh, but He will not answer them. Yes, He will hide His face from them at that time, because they made their deeds evil.” 5Thus says Yahweh concerning the prophets who lead My people astray; for those who proclaim, “Peace!”to those who feed them; and whoever doesn’t provide for their mouths, they prepare war against Him: 6“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. 7The seers shall be disappointed, and the diviners confounded. Yes, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer from God.” 8But as for me, I am full of power by the Spirit of Yahweh, and of judgment, and of might, to declare to Jacob his disobedience, and to Israel his sin. 9Please listen to this, you heads of the house of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel, who hate justice, and pervert all right judgment. 10They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. 11Her leaders judge for bribes, and her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money: yet they lean on Yahweh and say, “Isn’t Yahweh in the midst of us? No disaster will come on us.” 12Therefore 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.

CHAPTER 4

**The Mountain of Yahweh’s Temple**

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 nations will stream to it. 2Many nations will go and say, “Come, and let us 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 out of Zion will go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem; 3and He will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war any more. 4But they will sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and no one will make them afraid: for the mouth of Yahweh of Armies has spoken. 5Indeed all the nations may walk in the name of their gods; but we will walk in the name of Yahweh our God for ever and ever. 6“In that day,” says Yahweh, “I will assemble that which is lame, and I will gather that which is driven away, and that which I have afflicted; 7and I will make that which was lame a remnant, and that which was cast far off a strong nation: and Yahweh will reign over them on Mount Zion from then on, even forever.” 8You, tower of the flock, the hill of the daughter of Zion, to you it will come, yes, the former kingdom will return, the kingdom will come to the daughter of Jerusalem. 9Now why do you cry out aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counsellor perished, that pains have taken hold of you as of a woman in travail? 10Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail; for now you will go forth out of the city, and will dwell in the field, and will come even to Babylon. There you will be delivered. There Yahweh will redeem you from the hand of your enemies. 11Now many nations have assembled against you, that say, “Let her be raped, and let our eye gloat over Zion.” 12But they don’t know the thoughts of Yahweh, neither do they understand His counsel; for He has assembled them like the sheaves to the threshing floor. 13Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion; for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs brass; and you will beat in pieces many peoples: and I will devote their gain to Yahweh, and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.

CHAPTER 5

**Bethlehem the Birthplace of the Promised Ruler**

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. 2But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small among the clans of Judah, out of you one will come forth to Me that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting. 3Therefore 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.4He shall stand, and shall shepherd in the strength of Yahweh, in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God: and they will live, for then he will be great to the ends of the earth. 5He 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 senior leaders of men.

**Deliverance and Destruction**

 6They 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. 7The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from Yahweh, like showers on the grass, that don’t wait for man, nor wait for the sons of men. 8The 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 the flocks of sheep; who, if he goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is no one to deliver. 9Let your hand be lifted up above your adversaries, and let all of your enemies be cut off.10“It will happen in that day,” says Yahweh, “That I will cut off your horses out of the midst of you, and will destroy your chariots. 11I will cut off the cities of your land, and will tear down all your strongholds. 12I will destroy witchcraft from your hand; and you shall have no soothsayers. 13I will cut off your engraved images and your pillars out of your midst; and you shall no more worship the work of your hands. 14I will uproot your Asherim out of your midst; and I will destroy your cities. 15I will execute vengeance in anger, and wrath on the nations that didn’t listen.”

CHAPTER 6

**Yahweh’s Case against His People**

Listen now to what Yahweh says: “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear what you have to say. 2Hear, you mountains, Yahweh’s controversy, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for Yahweh has a controversy with His people, and He will contend with Israel. 3My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me! 4For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage. I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of Yahweh.” 6How shall I come before Yahweh, and bow myself before the exalted God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams? With tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my disobedience? The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

**The Guilt of the People**

9Yahweh’s voice calls to the city, and wisdom sees your name: “Listen to the rod, and He who appointed it. 10Are there yet treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and a short ephah that is accursed? 11Shall I be pure with dishonest scales, and with a bag of deceitful weights? 12Her rich men are full of violence, her inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their speech. 13Therefore I also have struck you with a grievous wound. I have made you desolate because of your sins. 14You shall eat, but not be satisfied. Your humiliation will be in your midst. You will store up, but not save; and that which you save I will give up to the sword. 15You 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. 16For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab. You live by their commands, that I may make you a ruin, and her inhabitants a hissing; and you will bear the reproach of my people.”

CHAPTER 7

**The Misery of the People**

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. 2The Godly man has perished out of the land, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; every man hunts his brother with a net. 3Their hands are on that which is evil to do it diligently. The ruler and judge ask for a bribe; and the powerful man dictates the evil desire of his soul. Thus they conspire together. 4The 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; now is the time of their confusion. 5Don’t trust in a neighbour. Don’t put confidence in a friend. With the woman lying in your embrace, be careful of the words of your mouth! 6For the son dishonours the father, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own house. 7But as for me, I will look to Yahweh. I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. 8Don’t rejoice against me, my enemy. When I fall, I will arise. When I sit in darkness, Yahweh will be a light to me. 9I will bear the indignation of Yahweh, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case, and executes judgment for me. He will bring me forth to the light. I will see His righteousness. 10Then my enemy will see it, and shame will cover her who said to me, where is Yahweh your God? Then my enemy will see me and will cover herself with shame. Now she will be trodden down like the mire of the streets. 11A day to build your walls! In that day, He will extend your boundary. 12In that day they will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt even to the River, and from sea to sea, and mountain to mountain. 13Yet the land will be desolate because of those who dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

**Prayer and Praises**

14Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock of Your heritage, who dwell by themselves in a forest, in the midst of fertile pasture land; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. 15“As in the days of your coming forth out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvellous things.” 16The nations will see and be ashamed of all their might. They will lay their hand on their mouth. Their ears will be deaf. 17They will lick the dust like a serpent. Like crawling things of the earth they shall come trembling out of their dens. They will come with fear to Yahweh our God, and will be afraid because of You. 18Who 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. 19He will again have compassion on us. He will tread our iniquities under foot; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. 20You will give truth to Jacob, and mercy to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.