

Samaria (Northern Israel) will be a ruined field because of her idolatry

CHAPTER 1

1 The word of Jehovah that was to Micah,¹ the Morasthite, in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, at which he gazed concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Attentively hear, all you people; prick up your ears, Oh earth, and all its fullness; and let the Lord Jehovah be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple,

3 Because, behold, Jehovah comes out of his place, and will descend, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

4 And the mountains shall be liquefied under him, and the valleys shall be torn open as wax before the face of fire, as waters flowing down a steep place.

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?

6 And I will put Samaria as a ruin of the field and as plantings of a vineyard; and I will cause its stones to flow down into the gorge, and I will uncover its foundations.

7 And all her carved idols shall be beaten to pieces, and all her gifts *for idolatry* shall be burned with fire, and I will put

all her idols *to be* a stunned desolation because she gathered *it* from gifts as a harlot, and they shall turn back to *be* gifts for a harlot.

8 Therefore I will wail and howl; I will walk stripped and naked; I will make a lamentation like monsters, and mourning as daughters of ostriches,

9 Because her wound *is* sick, because it has come to Judah; he has come to the gate of my people, even to Jerusalem.

10 Do not cause it to stand out boldly at Gath; do not weep at all; in the house of the House of Dust roll yourself in the dust.

11 You inhabitant of Saphir, cross over naked in your shame; the inhabitant of Zaanan has not gone out; he shall take from you his station in the mourning of Beth-ha-Ezel,

12 Because the inhabitant of Maroth was worn *out* toward good, because evil came down from Jehovah to the gate of Jerusalem.

13 Hitch up the chariot to the swift animal, Oh inhabitant of Lachish; she is the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, because the transgressions of Israel were found in you.

14 Therefore you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth Gath; the houses of Achzib *has become* a lie to the kings of Israel.

¹ 1:1 Micah, Who Is Like Jehovah?

MICAH 2 *Woe to Samaria (Northern Israel) because of their oppression of the poor and false prophets*

15 Yet I will bring a heir to you, Oh inhabitant of Mareshah; the heavy glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.

16 Make yourself bald, and cut off your hair for your delicate children; enlarge your baldness as the eagle because they have gone into captivity from you.

CHAPTER 2

1 Woe to them who calculate vanity, and practice evil upon their beds! They do it when it is light in the dawn because might is in their hand.

2 And they delight in fields, and pluck *them* off, and houses, and lift them away, and they oppress a valiant man and his house, and a man and his heritage.

3 Therefore thus says Jehovah, Behold, I calculate an evil against this family, from which you shall not withdraw your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily because this time *is* evil.

4 In that day one shall lift up a proverb against you, and lament with a lamentation, and say, Spoiled, we are spoiled; he has exchanged the allotment of my people; how he has withdrawn *it* from me! Turning away, he has divided our fields.

5 Therefore, there shall not be any throwing out of a cord by lot in the congregation of Jehovah.

6 *They say to me*, Do not distill your word *from Jehovah to us*. *The Israelites* distill their words. *The true prophets* shall not distill words *from Jehovah* to

them. Disgrace shall not be withdrawn.

7 *It is* said to the house of Jacob, Is the Spirit of Jehovah cut off? Lo, *are* these his doings? Do not my words do good to him who walks upright?

8 And yesterday my people rose up as one who hates me. You strip off the ornament from the garment of them who cross by confidently, those who turn back from war.

9 You have driven out the women of my people from their luxurious houses; you have taken my eternal magnificence from their sucking children.

10 Rise up, and walk because this *is* not your rest; because it is polluted it shall bind you, and with a pressing line.

11 If a man walking in a spirit and in falsehood lies, *saying*, I will distill words to you of wine and of hard liquor, even he shall be the one who distills words to this people.

12 Oh Jacob, assembling, I will assemble all of you; gathering, I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the flock of Bozrah, as the drove in the midst of their pasture; they shall make an uproar because of man.

13 The one who causes them to break out¹³ has ascended before their face; they have broken out, and have crossed through the

¹³ 2:13 The one who causes them to break out is Jehovah God, who causes them to break out of their captivity. They have broken out of their captivity, have crossed through the gate of the city where they were held captive, their king crossing on before their face, and Jehovah at their head.

The heads of Israel are cruel and take bribes; the reign of the Messiah
gate, and have gone out by it, and their king shall cross on before their face, and Jehovah at their head.

CHAPTER 3

1 And I said, Attentively hear, please, Oh heads of Jacob, and you magistrates of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know judgment,

2 Who hate good, and love evil, who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones,

3 And who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones, and spread *them* out in pieces as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron?

4 Then they shall scream to Jehovah, and he will not answer them, and he will hide his face from them at that time, as they have made themselves good for nothing in their doings.

5 Thus says Jehovah concerning the prophets who cause my people to vacillate, who strike *as serpents* with their teeth, and call out, Peace, and he who does not give into their mouths, even they make themselves ceremonially clean for war against him.

6 Therefore night *shall* not be a vision to you, and darkness *shall* not be a determining of the future by magic, and the day shall be dark over them.

7 And those who see visions shall pale in shame, and those seeking to determine the future by magic shall blush in disappointment; and they shall all

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cover over their lips because there is no answer from God.

8 And on the contrary, I am full of power by the Spirit of Jehovah, and judgment, and might, to cause his transgression to stand out boldly to Jacob, and to Israel his sin.

9 Attentively hear this, please, you heads of the house of Jacob, and magistrates of the house of Israel, who detest judgment, and pervert all uprightness.

10 They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with evil.

11 Their heads judge for gifts, and their priests cause *their teaching* to flow for a price, and their prophets seek to determine the future by magic for silver, and they lean upon Jehovah, and say, Is not Jehovah among us? No evil can come upon us.

12 Therefore Zion shall be plowed as a field for your sake, and Jerusalem shall become piles of ruin, and the mountain of the house *shall be* as the high places of the forest.

CHAPTER 4

1 And it shall be; it shall be in the last days, the mountain of the house of Jehovah shall be set up in the head of the mountains, and it shall be lifted above the hills, and people shall flow as a sparkling stream into it.

2 And many peoples shall walk, and say, Walk, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will cause his ways to flow to us, and we will

MICAH 5 *The reign of the Messiah; the daughter of Zion will go to Babylon; the ruler in Israel will come from Bethlehem*
walk in his well trod paths, because the law shall go out from Zion, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.

3 And he shall pronounce judgment among many people, and make right strong peoples afar off, and they shall beat their swords into digging hoes, and their spears into pruning knives; people shall not lift up a sword against people, and they shall not learn war any more.

4 And they shall sit down every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall cause them to tremble because the mouth of Jehovah of hosts has spoken;

5 Although all people walk every man in the name of his god, even we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever.

6 An oracle of Jehovah - In that day I will gather her who limps, and I will take hold of her who is driven out, and her whom I have made good for nothing;

7 And I will put her who limps *to be* a remnant, and her who was removed far off *to be* a powerful people, and Jehovah shall reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.

8 And you, Oh tower of Eder, the fortress of the daughter of Zion shall arrive to you, and the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

9 Now why do you shout with such crashing noise? Is there no king in you? Lo, has your

counselor been lost, because throes as in childbirth have seized you?

10 Twist *in pain* and labor to bring out, Oh daughter of Zion, like a woman in childbirth, because now you shall go out of the city, and you shall reside in the field, and you shall go to Babylon; there you shall be snatched out; there Jehovah shall be a kinsman redeemer to you from the palm of those hating you.

11 And now many peoples will be gathered against you, who say, Let her be made unclean, and let our eye gaze upon Zion.

12 And they do not know the devisings of Jehovah, and they do not discern his counsel, because he shall take hold of them as the sheaves in the threshing floor.

13 Rise up and thresh, Oh daughter of Zion, because I will put your horn *as* iron, and I will put your hoofs *as* brass, and you shall crush many peoples in pieces, and I will devote their plunder to Jehovah, and their resources to the Lord of the whole earth.

CHAPTER 5

1 Now crowd upon yourselves, Oh daughter of armies; he has put a siege against us; they shall strike the judge of Israel upon the cheek with a rod.

2 And you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you *are* little among the thousands of Judah; he who is to be ruler in Israel shall come out from you to me, whose origin *is* from before, from the days

The remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples as a lion
of eternity.

3 Therefore he will give them up, until the time that she who gives birth has given birth, and those left of his brothers shall turn back to the children of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and shepherd in the strength of Jehovah, in the majesty of the name of Jehovah his God, and they shall sit down, because now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

5 And this one shall be the peace when the Assyrian shall come into our land, and when he shall tread in our citadels, then we shall raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.

6 And they shall make the land of Assyria good for nothing with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in its entrances, and he shall snatch us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land, and when he treads within our borders.
S. Gen 10:8-12

7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples as a dew from Jehovah, as the showers upon the plants that do not tarry for man, and do not wait in hope for the children of men.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the peoples, in the midst of many peoples, as a lion among the animals of the forest, as a young lion among the droves of flock animals, who, if he crosses through, both treads down and tears to pieces, and none

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can snatch *them* out.

9 Your hand shall be lifted up upon your oppressors, and all those who hate you shall be cut off.

10 An oracle of Jehovah - And it shall be in that day that I will cut off your horses out of your midst, and I will cause your chariots to be lost;

11 And I will cut off the cities of your land, and pull down all your fortresses;

12 And I will cut off those who whisper spells to idols out of your hand, and those who practice secret arts shall not be to you;

13 And I will cut off your carved idols and your memorial columns out of your midst, and you shall not prostrate yourselves any more to the work of your hands.

14 And I will tear away your pole images out of the midst of you; so I will desolate your cities.

15 And I will do vengeance in *burning* nostrils and heat upon the peoples, those who have not attentively heard.

CHAPTER 6

1 Attentively hear now what Jehovah says, Rise up, contend before the mountains, and let the hills attentively hear your voice.

2 Attentively hear, Oh mountains, Jehovah's controversy, and you permanent foundations of the earth, because Jehovah has a controversy with his

MICAH 6 *Jehovah's controversy; do God's pronounced judgment, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God*
people, and he will make it right with Israel.

3 Oh my people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Answer against me,

4 Because I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of servants, and I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before your face.

5 Oh my people, remember now what Balak, king of Moab, consulted, and what Balaam, the son of Beor, answered him from Acacia to Gilgal, that you may know by seeing the righteousness of Jehovah.

6 Why shall I come before Jehovah and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves, sons of a year?

7 Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriads of streams of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?

8 He has caused to stand out boldly to you, Oh man, what *is* good. And what does Jehovah require from you, but to do *God's* pronounced judgment, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

9 The voice of Jehovah calls out to the city, and the one with counsel will fear your name; attentively hear the rod, and him who set its appointment.

10 Are there yet treasures in the house of the wicked, and the diminished ephah that causes

rage?

11 Shall I count them innocent with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

12 Because the rich ones are full of violence, and the inhabitants have spoken lies, and their tongue is treacherous in their mouth.

13 And also I will make you worn *out* by striking you into a stunned devastation because of your sins.

14 You shall eat, and not be filled to satisfaction, and your gaping hunger shall be in your midst, and you shall retreat, and not be delivered, and he who is delivered I will give to the sword.

15 You shall sow, and you shall not reap; you shall tread the olives, and you shall not anoint yourself with oil, and *tread out* fresh grape juice, and not drink wine.

16 And the statutes of Omri are hedged about, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and you walk in their counsels so that I should give you *to be* a stunned devastation, and your inhabitants a hissing, and you shall bear the disgrace of my people.

CHAPTER 7

1 Woe is me, because I am as when they have gathered the harvest, as the gleanings of the grape crop, there exists no cluster to eat; my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

2 The merciful has been lost out of the earth, and there exists none upright among men; they all lurk for blood; every man catches his brother with a net.

3 For they do evil well with both palms; the chief ruler asks, also the judge, for a fee, and the great one, he speaks the tempestuous ruin of his soul, and they weave perversion.

4 The best of them *is* as a brier, the upright, like a *thorn* hedge; *this is* the day of him who leans out to peer into the distance for you; your visitation comes; now their perplexity shall be.

5 Do not trust in an associate; do not put your trust in a familiar friend; hedge about the doors of your mouth from her who lies down in your bosom,

6 Because the son falls away from the father, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; those hating a man *are* the mortal men of his own house.

7 And I will lean out and peer into the distance for Jehovah; I will wait in hope for the God of my liberty; my God will attentively hear me.

8 Do not rejoice against me, you who hate me; when I fall, I shall rise up; when I sit down in darkness, Jehovah *is* a light to me.

9 I will bear the boiling rage of Jehovah, because I have sinned against him, until he defends my controversy, and does judgment for me; he will bring me out to the light, and I shall see his righteousness.

10 And she¹⁰ who hates me shall see it, and shame shall cover her who said to me, Where *is* Jehovah, your God? My eyes shall see her; now she shall be trodden down as the mud of the outdoors.

11 *The* day for building your walls - *in* that day the enactment¹¹ shall be widened.

12 In that day even he shall come to you from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the boundaries even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

13 And the land shall be a stunned devastation because of them who dwell there for the fruit of their doings.

14 Shepherd your people with your rod, the flock of your heritage, who reside solitary in the forest, in the midst of Carmel; let them be shepherded in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

15 According to the days of your coming out of the land of Egypt I will cause him to see

¹⁰ 7:10 Those who hate Jerusalem are personified as a "she." as Jerusalem is often personified as a daughter, and at other times as a son.

¹¹ 7:11 **enactment**, *choq*, the enactment determining what territory the wall of Jerusalem shall take in, shall be widened. See Note on Ezekiel 40:5.

MICAH 7 *The (enemy) peoples shall lick the dust; you will throw all Israel's sins into the depths of the sea marvelous things.*

16 The peoples shall see and pale in shame at all their might; they shall put their hand over their mouth; their ears shall be deaf.

17 They shall lick the dust like a snake; they shall be agitated out of their holes like crawlers of the earth; they shall fear Jehovah our God, and shall fear because of you.

18 Who *is* God like you, who lifts away crookedness, and crosses over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He does not make strong his *burning* nostrils forever, because he delights in mercy.

19 He will turn back; he will have compassion upon us; he will tread down our crookednesses, and you will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 You will give the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, what you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.