

The Book of  
Micah

1:3 Destruction pronounced against Israel and Judah. 2:12 A Remnant to be Restored. 4:1 The LORD's Kingdom.

**1** *The* word of Jehovah that came to Micah the Morashtite in *the* days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

**2** Hear, ye peoples, all of you; hearken, O earth, and <sup>1</sup>all that therein *is*: and let *the* Lord Jehovah be witness <sup>2</sup>against you, <sup>3</sup>Jehovah from his holy temple. **3** For, behold, Jehovah cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon *the* high places of *the* earth. **4** And the mountains shall be melted under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, as waters *that are* poured down a steep place. **5** For *the* transgression of Jacob *is* all this, 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** Therefore I will make Samaria as a heap of the field, and as places for planting vineyards; and I will pour down *the* stones thereof into the valley, and I will uncover *the* foundations thereof. **7** And all her graven images shall be beaten to pieces, and all her hires shall be burned with fire, and all her idols will I lay desolate; for of *the* hire of a harlot hath she gathered *them*, and unto *the* hire of a harlot shall they return.

**8** For this will I lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the jackals, and a lamentation like *the* ostriches. **9** For her wounds *are* incurable; for it is come even unto Judah; it reacheth unto *the* gate of my people, *even* to Jerusalem. **10** Tell *it* not in Gath, weep not at all: at <sup>4</sup>Beth-le-aphrah <sup>5</sup>roll thyself in *the* dust. **11** Pass away, O inhabitant of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame: *the* <sup>6</sup>inhabitant of Zaanan is not come forth; *the* wailing of Beth-ezel shall take from you *the* <sup>7</sup>stay thereof. **12** For *the* inhabitant of Maroth <sup>8</sup>waiteth anxiously for good, because evil is come down from Jehovah unto *the* gate of Jerusalem. **13** Bind the chariot to the swift steed, O inhabitant of Lachish: she *was the* beginning of sin to *the* daughter of Zion; for *the* transgressions of Israel were found in thee. **14** Therefore shalt thou give a parting gift to Moresheth-gath: *the* houses of Akhzib *shall be*

<sup>1</sup> *Hb.* *the* fulness thereof:

<sup>2</sup> *Or,* among

<sup>3</sup> Sopherim *changed to the* Lord

<sup>4</sup> *That is,* A house of dust

<sup>5</sup> *Hb*<sup>txt</sup> *alone reads,* have I rolled myself in *the* dust.

Lamsa, Douay *read* roll yourselves in the dust.

<sup>6</sup> *Hb.* inhabitress *And so throughout* ch. 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Or,* standing-place thereof.

<sup>8</sup> *Or,* is in travail for good,

<sup>9</sup> a deceitful thing unto *the* kings of Israel. **15** I will yet bring unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah, him that shall possess thee: *the* glory of Israel shall come even unto Adullam. **16** Make thee bald, and cut off thy hair for *the* children of thy delight: enlarge thy baldness as the <sup>10</sup>eagle; for they are gone into captivity from thee.

**2** Woe to them that devise iniquity and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in *the* power of their hand. **2** And they 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. **3** Therefore thus saith Jehovah: Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks, neither shall ye walk haughtily; for it *is* an evil time. **4** In that day shall they take up a parable against you, and lament <sup>11</sup>with a doleful lamentation, and say, We are utterly ruined: he changeth *the* portion of my people: how doth he <sup>12</sup>remove *it* from me! to *the* rebellious he divideth our fields. **5** Therefore thou shalt have none that shall cast *the* line by lot in *the* assembly of Jehovah.

**6** <sup>13</sup>Prophesy ye not, *thus* they prophesy. They shall not prophesy <sup>14</sup>to these: reproaches shall not depart. **7** <sup>15</sup>*Shall it be* said, O house of Jacob, Is *the* Spirit of Jehovah <sup>16</sup>straitened? *are* these his doings? Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly? **8** But <sup>17</sup>of late my people is risen up as an enemy: ye strip *the* robe from off *the* garment from them that pass by securely *as men* averse from war. **9** *The* women of my people ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their young children ye take away my glory for ever. **10** Arise ye, and depart; for this *is* not *your* resting-place; because of uncleanness that destroyeth, even with a grievous destruction. **11** <sup>18</sup>If a man walking <sup>19</sup>in a spirit of falsehood do lie, *saying,* I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be *the* prophet of this people.

<sup>9</sup> *Hb.* akhzab

<sup>10</sup> *Or,* vulture;

<sup>11</sup> *Or,* with *the* lamentation, It is done; and say, *etc.*

<sup>12</sup> *Or,* depart from me!

<sup>13</sup> *Or,* Prophesy ye not, they are *ever* prophesying, say *they* *Hb.* Drop (*three times*). See Amos 7:16.

<sup>14</sup> *Or,* of these *things*: their reproaches never cease.

<sup>15</sup> *Or,* O *thou that art* named the house of Jacob,

<sup>16</sup> *Or,* impatient *Hb.* shortened

<sup>17</sup> *Hb.* yesterday my people is risen up as an enemy:

<sup>18</sup> MurXII Sept. *read* A man doth not walk about speaking falsehood and lies,

<sup>19</sup> *Or,* in wind and falsehood do lie,

12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; 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 shall make great noise by reason of *the multitude of* men. 13 The breaker is gone up before them: they have broken forth and passed on to *the* gate, and are gone out thereat: and their king is passed on before them, and Jehovah at *the* head of them.

3 And I said, Hear, I pray you, ye heads of Jacob, and rulers of *the* house of Israel: *is it* not for you to know justice? 2 ye who hate *the* good, and love *the* evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; 3 who also eat *the* flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within *the* caldron. 4 Then shall they cry unto Jehovah, but he will not answer them; yes, he will hide his face from them at that time, according as they have wrought evil in their doings.

5 Thus saith Jehovah concerning the prophets that make my people to err; *that* bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and whoso putteth not into their mouths, they even <sup>20</sup>prepare war against him: 6 Therefore *it shall be* night unto you, that ye shall have no vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them. 7 And the seers shall be put to shame, and the diviners confounded; yes, they shall all cover their lips; for *there is* no answer of God. 8 But as for me, I am full <sup>21</sup>of power by the Spirit of Jehovah, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

9 Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of *the* house of Jacob, and rulers of *the* house of Israel, *that* abhor justice, and pervert all equity. 10 They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. 11 *The* heads thereof judge for reward, and *the* priests thereof teach for hire, and *the* prophets thereof divine for money: yet they lean upon Jehovah, and say, *Is* not Jehovah in *the* midst of us? no evil shall come upon us. 12 Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed *as* a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and *the* mountain of *the* house as *the* high places of a forest.

4 But in the latter days it shall come to pass, *that the* mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established <sup>22</sup>on *the* top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above *the* hills; and peoples shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to *the* mountain of Jehovah, and to *the* house of *the* God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will

<sup>20</sup> *Hb.* sanctify *or*, hallow

<sup>21</sup> *Or*, of power, *even* the Spirit of Jehovah,

<sup>22</sup> *Or*, at *the* head of the mountains,

walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth <sup>23</sup>*the* law, and *the* word of Jehovah from Jerusalem; 3 and he will judge <sup>24</sup>between <sup>25</sup>many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for *the* mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken *it*. 5 For all the peoples walk every one in *the* name of his god; and we will walk in *the* name of Jehovah our God for ever and ever.

6 In that day, saith Jehovah, will I assemble *that* which is lame, and I will gather *that* which is driven away, and *that* which I have afflicted; 7 and I will make *that* which was lame a remnant, and *that* which was cast far off a strong nation: and Jehovah will reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth even for ever. 8 And thou, O tower of <sup>26</sup>*the* flock, <sup>27</sup>*the* hill of *the* daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, yes, the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of *the* daughter of Jerusalem.

9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? *Is there* no king in thee, is thy counsellor perished, that pangs have taken hold of thee as of *a* woman in travail? 10 Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like *a* woman in travail; for now shalt thou go forth out of *the* city, and shalt dwell in the field, and shalt come *even* unto Babylon: there shalt thou be rescued; there will Jehovah ransom thee from *the* hand of thine enemies. 11 And now many nations are assembled against thee, *that* say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye <sup>28</sup>see *our desire* upon Zion. 12 But they know not *the* thoughts of Jehovah, neither understand they his counsel; for he hath gathered them as the sheaves to *the* threshing-floor. 13 Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs copper; and thou shalt beat in pieces many peoples: and <sup>29</sup>I will devote their gain unto Jehovah, and their substance unto *the* Lord of the whole earth.

5 Now shalt thou gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us; they shall smite the judge of Israel with *a* rod upon the cheek.

2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, *which art* little to be among <sup>30</sup>*the* thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel;

<sup>23</sup> *Or*, instruction,

<sup>24</sup> *Or*, among

<sup>25</sup> *Or*, great

<sup>26</sup> *Or*, Eder, *See* Ge 35:21.

<sup>27</sup> *Hb.* Ophel

<sup>28</sup> *Or*, gaze upon Zion.

<sup>29</sup> *So* Massoretic. The versions *read* thou shalt devote

<sup>30</sup> *Or*, *the* families of Judah, *See* Jg 6:15.

whose goings forth *are* from of old, <sup>31</sup>from everlasting. 3 Therefore will he give them up, until *the* time that she who travaileth hath brought forth: then *the* residue of his brethren shall return <sup>32</sup>unto *the* children of Israel. 4 And he shall stand, and shall feed *his flock* in *the* strength of Jehovah, in *the* majesty of *the* name of Jehovah his God: and they shall abide; for now shall he be great unto *the* ends of *the* earth. 5 And this *man* shall be *our* peace. When *the* Assyrian shall come into our land, and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight <sup>33</sup>principal men. 6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in *the* entrances thereof: and he shall deliver us from *the* Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our border. 7 And *the* remnant of Jacob shall be in *the* midst of many peoples as dew from Jehovah, as showers upon *the* grass; that tarry not for man, nor wait for *the* sons of men. 8 And *the* remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in *the* midst of many peoples, as a lion among *the* beasts of *the* forest, as a young lion among *the* flocks of sheep; who, if he go through, treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and there is none to deliver. 9 Let thy hand be lifted up above thine adversaries, and let all thine enemies be cut off.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah, that I will cut off thy horses out of *the* midst of thee, and will destroy thy chariots: 11 and I will cut off *the* cities of thy land, and will throw down all thy strongholds: 12 and I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand; and thou shalt have no *more* soothsayers: 13 and I will cut off thy graven images and thy <sup>34</sup>pillars out of *the* midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship *the* work of thy hands; 14 and I will pluck up thine Asherim out of *the* midst of thee; and I will destroy thy <sup>35</sup>cities. 15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations <sup>36</sup>which hearkened not.

6 Hear ye now what Jehovah saith: Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice. 2 Hear, O ye mountains, Jehovah's controversy, and ye enduring foundations of *the* earth; for Jehovah hath a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. 3 O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me. 4 For I brought thee up out of *the* land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of *the* house of bondage; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my

<sup>31</sup> *Or*, from ancient days.

<sup>32</sup> *Or*, with

<sup>33</sup> *Or*, princes among men. *Lit.* ones poured out (*as a libation*) of Adam.

<sup>34</sup> *Or*, obelisks

<sup>35</sup> *Or*, enemies.

<sup>36</sup> *Or*, such as they have not heard.

people, remember now what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam *the* son of Beor answered him; *remember* from Shittim unto Gilgal, that ye may know *the* righteous acts of Jehovah.

6 Wherewith shall I come before Jehovah, *and* bow myself before *the* high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? 7 will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, *the* fruit of my body *for* *the* sin of my soul? 8 He hath showed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?

9 *The* voice of Jehovah crieth unto the city, and *the* man of wisdom will <sup>37</sup>see thy name: hear ye *the* rod, and who hath appointed it. 10 Are there yet treasures of wickedness in *the* house of *the* wicked, and a scant <sup>38</sup>measure *that is* abominable? 11 Shall I be pure with wicked balances, and with a bag of deceitful weights? 12 *For* *the* rich men thereof are full of violence, and *the* inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue *is* deceitful in their mouth. 13 Therefore I also have smitten *thee* with a grievous wound; I have made *thee* desolate because of thy sins. 14 Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy <sup>39</sup>humiliation *shall be* in *the* midst of thee: and thou shalt put away, but shalt not save; and *that* which thou savest will I give up to the sword. 15 Thou shalt sow, but shalt not reap; thou shalt tread *the* olives, but shalt not anoint thee with oil; and *the* vintage, but shalt not drink *the* wine. 16 *For* *the* statutes of Omri are kept, and all *the* works of *the* house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I may make thee <sup>40</sup>a desolation, and *the* inhabitants thereof a hissing: and ye shall bear *the* reproach of my people.

7 Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered *the* summer fruits, as *the* grape gleanings of *the* vintage: *there is* no cluster to eat; <sup>41</sup>my soul desireth *the* first-ripe fig. 2 *The* godly man is perished out of the earth, and *there is* none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. 3 Their hands are upon that *which is* evil to do it diligently; the prince asketh, and the judge *is* ready for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth *the* evil desire of his soul: thus they weave it together. 4 *The* best of them *is* as a brier; <sup>42</sup>*the* most upright *is* worse than a thorn hedge: *the* day of thy watchmen, *even* thy visitation, is come; now shall be their perplexity.

<sup>37</sup> Sept., Aram., Vg. *read* fear

<sup>38</sup> *Hb.* ephah [about 22 litre]

<sup>39</sup> *Or*, emptiness

<sup>40</sup> *Or*, an astonishment,

<sup>41</sup> *Or*, nor first-ripe fig which my soul desired.

<sup>42</sup> *Or*, the straightest *is* as it were taken from a thorn hedge:

5 Trust ye not in a neighbor; *and* put ye not confidence in a <sup>43</sup>friend; keep *the* doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. 6 For *the* son dishonoreth *the* father, *the* daughter riseth up against her mother, *the* daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies *are the* men of his own house.

7 But *as for me*, <sup>44</sup>I will look unto Jehovah; I will wait for *the* God of my salvation: my God will hear me. 8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, Jehovah *will be* a light unto me. 9 I will bear *the* indignation of Jehovah, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold his righteousness. 10 Then mine enemy shall see *it*, and shame shall cover her who said unto me, Where is Jehovah thy God? Mine eyes shall see *my desire* upon her; now shall she be trodden down as *the* mire of *the* streets. 11 <sup>45</sup>A day for building thy walls! *in* that day shall *the* <sup>46</sup>decree be far removed. 12 *In* that day shall they come unto thee from Assyria and *the* cities of <sup>47</sup>Egypt, and from Egypt even to *the* River, and from sea to sea, and *from* mountain to mountain. 13 Yet shall the land be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for *the* fruit of their doings.

14 <sup>48</sup>Feed thy people with thy rod, *the* flock of thy heritage, which dwell solitarily, *in the* forest in *the* midst of Carmel: let them feed *in* Bashan and Gilead, as in *the* days of old. 15 As in *the* days of thy coming forth out of *the* land of Egypt will I show unto them marvellous *things*. 16 *The* nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay *their* hand upon *their* mouth; their ears shall be deaf. 17 They shall lick *the* dust like *a* serpent; like crawling things of *the* earth they shall come trembling out of their close places; they shall come with fear unto Jehovah our God, and shall be afraid because of thee.

18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth over *the* transgression of *the* remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* lovingkindness. 19 He will again have compassion upon us; he will <sup>49</sup>tread our iniquities under foot; and thou wilt cast all their sins into *the* depths of *the* sea. 20 <sup>50</sup>Thou wilt <sup>51</sup>perform *the* truth to Jacob, *and the* lovingkindness to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from *the* days of old.

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<sup>43</sup> *Or*, confidant;

<sup>44</sup> *Or*, in Jehovah will I keep watch;

<sup>45</sup> *Or*, *In the* day that thy walls are to be built!

<sup>46</sup> *Or*, boundary

<sup>47</sup> *Hb.* Mazor (*singular; both times*) [*not* Mizraim]

<sup>48</sup> *Or*, Rule

<sup>49</sup> *Or*, subdue our iniquities under foot;

<sup>50</sup> *Or*, Thou wilt show *thy* faithfulness to Jacob,

<sup>51</sup> *Hb.* give

*End of the Book of Micah*