

MICAH

THE PROPHECY

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MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue star of David.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown star of David.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to Zion, God's holy mountain with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to a place with orange brackets.

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital "T". (what happens because of something else)

Read through **Micah 1** and highlight in pink every term of explanation i.e. because, for. (why something happens)

Read through **Micah 1** and mark every reference to sin or iniquity with an orange "do not" sign. (A circle with a diagonal slash through it.)

Read through **Micah 1** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD is coming because of sin of Jacob/Israel
2. Micah laments over wounds to Judah
3. Calamity has come from the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 1:1-7

What came to Micah of Moresheth?

When did the Word of the LORD come to Micah?

Who were Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah?

How did Micah receive the Word of the LORD?

POINT OF DEPTH

In 922 BC the nation of Israel was split in two, by God, because of its sin. Ten tribes of Israel moved northward, made their capital Samaria, and were called the Northern Kingdom, or Israel. The other two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, remained as the Southern Kingdom, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Where is Moresheth? Look it up on a Bible map.

Was Micah a prophet in the Northern or Southern Kingdom?

How do you know? (From the text.)

1.

2.

Even though Micah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom, to whom was his message addressed?

1.

2.

Even though the Word of the Lord concerned Samaria (Northern Kingdom) and Jerusalem (Southern Kingdom), who was called to listen to it?

1.

2.

Against whom does the Lord GOD intend to be a witness?

Who are the peoples of the earth?

What does it mean by the earth and all it contains? What does the earth contain?

From where will the Lord GOD testify?

As the Lord sits on His heavenly throne in His holy temple, He sits as Judge of all the universe. Should the peoples and the earth be interested in what He is about to say? Why?

What is the Lord going to do?

Come down to where?

Come down from where?

The Judge of all the earth! The Lord of all the earth! He is coming! What will He do when He comes down from His place?

Do you see an interesting contrast? Whose place is really the high place?

What will the mountains do when He comes down to tread on the high places of the earth?

What will the valleys do?

To what is the reaction of the mountains and valleys compared?

1.

2.

Picture wax melting before a fire; and then picture the mountains melting in the same way.

Picture water being poured down a steep place; and then picture the valleys in the same way.

Why is the Lord coming? Why is He going to tread on the high places of the earth?

1.

2.

What is the rebellion of Jacob?

What is the high place of Judah?

What would God do to Samaria?

She would become a heap of ruins in the open country and planting places for someone else's vineyard. What would God do to her stones?

What would God do to her foundations?

What would God do to her idols?

What would God do to all her earnings?

What would God do to all of her images?

What was the source of Samaria's earnings?

What would happen to Samaria's harlot's earnings?

Who would make it happen?

Micah 1:8-16

Micah speaks in the first person. What does he say he is required to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Why must Micah lament and wail, and go barefoot and naked?

Whose wound is incurable? (The wound is not the sin, rather the judgment for the sin.)

The wound is described as infectious; how far has Samaria's wound reached?

How far into Judah has the infection spread?

Who, specifically, is Micah referring to when he says, "my people"?

Who will receive the judgment of God along with Samaria?

What is not to be told in Gath?

Where is Gath? Look it up in a Bible dictionary.

Who is not to weep at all?

Why was Israel not to weep at all in front of foreigners, like Gath, a city of Philistia?

How would enemies most likely react to the calamity which would come upon Israel?

Get out your Bible map; you're going to need it! **Micah 1:10-16** lists many cities. We need to locate as many as we can to understand the meaning of the chapter. Look up the following places on your map. Note where they are in relation to either Samaria or Jerusalem if you find them.

1. Gath

2. Beth-le-aphrah

3. Shaphir

4. Zaanon

5. Beth-ezel

6. Maroth

7. Lachish

8. Moresheth-gath

9. Achzib

10. Mareshah

11. Adullam

While Israel was told not to tell of the calamity in Gath, in fact, not to weep at all, what are the Israelites who live in Beth-le-aphrah to do?

Beth-le-aphrah means house of dust. Do you see any connection?

What is the inhabitant of Shaphir to do when taken into captivity during God's judgment?

Shaphir means pleasantness. What is the connection, either a contrast or a comparison?

Will the inhabitant of Zaanan escape the calamity that God will bring upon them?

Zaanan means going out. Escape means go out. Hmmm. Interesting, don't you think?

Why is Beth-ezel lamenting?

Beth-ezel means house of removal. What will be taken from Beth-ezel? (Support means standing place.)

For what will the inhabitant of Maroth wait?

What will happen to the inhabitant of Maroth while waiting for good?

Why does Maroth become weak while waiting for good?

Maroth means bitterness. Do you see the connection?

We saw that Gath was in Philistia. In which kingdom do Beth-le-aphrah, Shaphir, Zaanan, Beth-ezel, and Maroth seem to be located? (Don't be too worried if you can't find them all, or any of them. It is more important to see what the wordplay on their names is showing.)

What has come down from the Lord?

To where has the calamity from the Lord come?

Where have you seen that phrase, "the gate of Jerusalem" before?

What had come to the gate of Jerusalem in **Micah 1:9**?

What seems to be at the gate of Jerusalem in **Micah 1:12**? Is it the same judgment?

POINT OF DEPTH

What seems clear, even if the exact locations of the cities are not, is that there is great destruction and calamity upon many towns and villages as the Lord treads the high places because of the rebellion of His people.

What is Lachish called to do?

What were chariots and horses used for?

Why is Lachish at war?

Of what is Lachish accused?

How close is Lachish to Jerusalem?

Is Lachish also close to Moresheth, Micah's hometown?

POINT OF DEPTH

Lachish was a fortified city, and should have guarded the way to Jerusalem. Sadly, it became the headquarters of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, when he invaded Judah in 701 BC.

Why would Lachish need to fight a battle? (Look in the text to find the specific reason.)

The calamity has come to the gate of Jerusalem (**verse 9**), and a fortified city which should have protected Jerusalem has been under attack (**verse 13**). As each town in order has been addressed, so now Jerusalem. What is Jerusalem told she will do?

Moresheth-gath (Micah is from Moresheth) is located close to Gath. Does that help you to understand more clearly why and who Micah told not to tell of the calamity in Gath, or to weep at all?

On behalf of whom will the parting gifts be given?

Who, does it seem, will be taken away during God's great calamity?

What will happen to the houses of Achzib?

Achzib means lying. Do you see the wordplay? (In the Hebrew, the words are almost identical *akzeeb* and *akzawb*.)

To whom will the houses of Achzib become a deception?

Can you think of a way in which the houses of Achzib would become a deception to the kings of Israel?

Who will be brought upon the inhabitant of Mareshah?

Mareshah sounds like the Hebrew word that means conqueror, inheritance or possession. What Mareshah thought she possessed, i.e. the town itself, would be possessed by whom?

What will enter Adullam?

Where is Adullam?

The glory of Israel should be the nation of God standing in its rightful place as head of the nations. However, because of sin, the glory of Israel would enter Adullam, perhaps to hide in the cave David once did. (**I Samuel 22:1; II Samuel 23:13**)

What is Judah told to do?

1.

2.

Why?

Who are the children of her delight?

Once again the counsel is given to make themselves bald for the purpose of mourning. This time, the picture of a bird with no feathers on its head is given for the example. Why? What has happened to the children of Israel?

READ AND REASON

This book is so familiar to the other prophets with its thread of judgment for sin. Have you read it all the way through yet? If not, do so now. Look for that cord of judgment as you read. And make note of whether another strand of the tapestry of the prophets is in sight; deliverance and restoration.

Once you have read the book of Micah looking for these two strands, try to determine if there is a pattern of the two repeating over and over again. If you find it, note where the cycle begins each time.

MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to the Spirit of the LORD with a red cloud.

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every reference to sin or iniquity with an orange “do not” sign. (A circle with a diagonal slash through it.)

Read through **Micah 2** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”. (what happens because of something else)

Read through **Micah 2** and highlight in pink every term of explanation i.e. because, for. (why something happens)

Read through **Micah 2** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Those who scheme iniquity
2. Lord is planning a calamity for this family
3. Leaders & prophets
4. Lord gathers & leads Israel

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 2:1-2

Against whom is woe pronounced?

What does it mean to scheme iniquity? How is that different than to just commit iniquity?

Where and when do these schemers of iniquity do their scheming?

What happens in the morning after a night of scheming?

How or why are they able to accomplish their wicked schemes?

What sorts of schemes do they carry out?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who would have the power to seize a field?

Who would have the authority to take away a house from someone?

What do those who scheme iniquities do to a man and his house?

Micah 2:3-5

What is the Lord planning against this family?

Who is the “family”?

Why is the Lord planning a calamity against this family?

How is the calamity described?

What does it mean that they will not be able to remove their necks from this calamity?
Could it possibly be a picture of a yoke around their necks?

How will they no longer walk?

How is the time of this calamity described?

POINT OF DEPTH

The ways of God are always so perfect and appropriate.

**The Hebrew word for scheme in verse one
is the same word translated planning in verse three.
This powerful wicked group plotting iniquity against the poor and the helpless**

**is about to be receive in due against them
what has been devised by the Almighty!**

God is a defender of the poor and needy.

Psalm 12:5

***“Because of the devastation of the afflicted,
because of the groaning of the needy,
Now I will arise,” says the Lord;
“I will set him in the safety for which he longs.”***

What will happen on that day?

Who will take up a taunt?

Against whom will the taunt be uttered?

How is the taunt described?

What will the bitter lamentation say? Write it out word for word.

Who is completely destroyed?

What does God exchange?

What does God remove?

To whom does God apportion their fields?

What will be the result of what God does to them?

What do you think it means that “they will have no one stretching a measuring line for them by lot in the assembly of the Lord”? **Joshua 14:2; 18:8, 10**

What did these evil schemers do to others?

What does God righteously and fittingly do to these evil schemers?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The evil schemers took fields, houses and land from those they afflicted.
God would take the evil schemers out of His land, from their fields and houses.**

**After all, the people are His and the houses are His and the land is His.
It's ALL HIS – He created everything and He owns everything!**

Leviticus 25:23

***The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine;
For you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.***

Micah 2:6-11

Verse 6 might be easier to understand if I ask you questions in a backward order. How will reproaches be turned back?

Against whom have the reproaches been? (**Verses 1-2**)

Who would be the ones speaking out concerning these things?

What are these things? (Context of **Chapter 2**)

If God's prophets did not speak out concerning the iniquity of the schemers, reproaches would not be turned back. Who is telling the prophets of God to not speak out?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Do you see the wordplay in the first phrase?
God's prophets, who are to speak out for God, or to flow with His words,
are told by sinful men to not speak out.
The sinful men are "speaking out" their own words to the prophets
telling them to stop "speaking out" God's Word!**

**Now, let's back up again to the beginning of the verse
and notice something very significant.
What is to be the result of God's prophets speaking out concerning
unrighteousness on the part of His people?**

**Do you listen to the voices of men who call for the silence of God's Word?
Or do you listen to the voice of God's prophets in His Word?**

**Do you listen to the voices of men?
Or do you listen to God as He speaks through His Word?**

**Do you hear the reasoning of men?
Or do you hear what God is saying?**

**Do you respond to the voice of man?
Or do you respond to the voice of God in His Word?**

**Do you repeat what others have said to you?
Or do you speak God's Words to others?**

May reproaches be turned back!

What is the house of Jacob saying?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

“Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient?”

The people view the coming calamity to have been leveled against them unfairly and without reason, therefore they are saying God would be impatient if He did this— so the prophecy from Micah cannot be true! What does God say? II Peter 3:9; Exodus 34:6-7

“Are these His doings?”

The people also view the condemnation of calamity to be harsh and wrong, therefore they are saying that God would be evil if He judged them! What does God say? Psalm 19:8; 119:28; Numbers 14:18

God answers them with a rhetorical question:

“Do not God’s Words do good to the one walking uprightly?”

Yes! Yes! A thousand times, “Yes!”

God’s words were threatening to those who were scheming iniquity and oppressing others.

But to those who were walking uprightly in God’s ways,

His Words were a comfort, a balm, a rock!

Read Psalm 119 and believe Him!

Had God’s people been walking uprightly?

What had they done?

To Whom or whom had they become enemies?

The men who returned from war should have been secure in the nation while they were integrating themselves back into daily life, farmers should have felt secure as they walked the roads in the nation of Israel, women should have been safe, protected and sheltered in their homes, children should have inherited their parents' land and homes, yet what did the wealthy wicked do to change that?

1.

2.

3.

4.

To understand a little more clearly who these powerful elite were, let me ask you a question. Who would have the authority to evict someone from their house?

Why would the prophets want Micah and any righteous prophets to stay quiet about God's condemnation of the wicked oppressors in the nation? Why would they have supported what these schemers were doing to their innocent victims? Could they have been partaking of the profits themselves?

Who are the women?

What is taken from a woman's children?

What would God's splendor be—in this context?

What command is given?

From where are they to arise and go?

Who will need to arise and go?

Here is another wordplay which shows God's perfect aptness in His judgments. The evil oppressors in Israel took the pleasant house away from women and their children, possibly widows and orphans (because the husband was most likely deceased). Now God told them His Land would no longer be a place of rest for them—God was evicting the sinful of Israel from the land of Israel. What does uncleanness, iniquity, bring?

What type of destruction?

God is not quite done leveling His dispute against them. He throws up an apt example of their evil. He tells them they would elect or follow any one who gave them what they wanted. What is the picture He uses?

If a true prophet is one who walks after God's Words and ways, then what is a man that walks after wind and falsehood?

What did this windbag of a man promise the people when he prophesied?

What lies would he tell the people?

And how would the people respond to the man's bloated bag of lies?

What would they want the false prophet to be?

Why?

Micah 2:12-13

What does God say He will surely do?

In order to be assembled, what must have to happen first?

Is that not what God has threatened? **Micah 1:11, 16; 2:4**

Who would God assemble?

1.

2.

Who would God surely gather? All of Israel, or part of Israel?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Just a reminder, at this point in history,
neither the Northern or the Southern Kingdoms had been taken into captivity—
but they soon would be—
Israel in 722 BC and Judah in 586 BC.**

Who would make His people outcasts and exiles?

Why would God send His people into exile?

Who would put His people back together like sheep in the fold? (Interesting side note: the word for fold is actually Bozrah.)

When God brought His people back to the land, from which they would soon be evicted, how would they be described?

What does it mean to be noisy with men? Obviously the “they” refers to the remnant of Israel that the Lord gathers from exile and brings back to Israel. “Like” a flock is a metaphor; so when He brings His people back, the people will be noisy with men. Any ideas?

Who goes up before them?

Who is them?

What happens because the Breaker goes up before them?

1.

2.

3.

Who goes on before them?

Who is at their head?

READ AND REASON

We have just read through the first two chapters of Micah. Have you seen a cycle of first judgment and then salvation and/or restoration?

Where did the judgment begin and where did it end?

Where did the salvation and restoration begin and where did it end?

Read through the first paragraph of Chapter 3. What seems to be starting again?

MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to the Spirit of the LORD with a red cloud.

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to Zion or Jerusalem with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to prophet with a green circle filled in with green. If it is referring to false prophets, fill it in with brown instead.

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every reference to sin or iniquity with an orange "do not" sign. (a circle with a diagonal slash through it)

Read through **Micah 3** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital "T". (what happens because of something else)

Read through **Micah 3** and highlight in pink every term of explanation i.e. because, for. (why something happens)

Read through **Micah 3** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. No answer from God to rulers who love evil
2. No answer from God to prophets who lead His people astray
3. Micah's message to Jacob/Israel – Ruin!

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 3:1-4

How does **Chapter 3** begin?

Who is the herald of this call?

Who is called to hear?

1.

2.

Are the heads of Jacob and the rulers of the house of Israel synonymous?

POINT OF DEPTH

**God changed Jacob's name to Israel,
who became the father of 12 sons,
who are the 12 tribes of Israel.**

What are the heads of Jacob and the rulers of the house of Israel to know?

Yes, they are to know justice; it is their responsibility. Yet, what do they love?

And what do they hate?

Do they know justice?

Sadly they do not know justice, and Micah graphically reveals their hideous injustice. What does Micah say they do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Is Micah speaking literally or figuratively?

How do you know?

Who will cry out to the LORD? (Check the context before you answer.)

Will the LORD answer the cry of the heads of Jacob and the rulers of the house of Israel?

What will the LORD do instead?

Why will the LORD hide His face from them?

Micah 3:5-7

Concerning whom does the Lord speak?

Has the Lord spoken about the prophets who lead His people astray before?

Where?

When they are given something to eat, (or bribed), what do they prophesy?

When someone refuses to give them an inducement, how do they react?

Because these prophets are leading God's people astray, what will happen?

Why will it be night for them?

What will their darkness be like?

What will happen to the sun?

What will the day be like for the prophets?

Why will the seers be ashamed and the diviners embarrassed?

What will they do?

Why?

Micah 3:8-12

How is Micah contrasted with the false prophets?

The false prophets are impotent to speak for God, but Micah is filled with power. What is this power?

With what else is Micah filled?

1.

2.

What is Micah to do, being filled with the Spirit of the Lord and with justice and courage?

1.

2.

What is Jacob's rebellious act?

What is the sin of Israel?

How does **verse 9** compare with **verse 1**?

What do the leaders of Israel abhor?

What do they do with "everything that is straight"?

How do they build Zion?

How do they build Jerusalem?

Of what are her leaders guilty?

Of what are her priests guilty?

Of what are her prophets guilty?

Corrupt to the core, yet what do these leaders believe?

What do these leaders say?

Will calamity come upon them? **Micah 1:12; 2:3**

POINT OF DEPTH

The behavior of the leaders of Israel was not uncommon.
They worshiped other gods right along with the True God.
They disobeyed God and yet expected Him to protect them
because they had “worshiped” Him!

They were, however, gravely mistaken.
God is God and He will not be mocked!
He will act according to His holiness and righteousness;
His perfect justice will be dispensed.

Amos 5:21-27

*“I hate, I reject your festivals,
Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.
Take away from Me the noise of your songs;
I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty
years. O house of Israel?
You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun,
your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.
Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus,”
says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.*

Ezekiel 23:36-39

*Moreover, the Lord said to me, “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah?
Then declare to them their abominations.
For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands.
Thus they have committed adultery with their idols and even caused their sons,
whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire to them as food.
Again, they have done this to Me:
They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and have profaned My sabbaths.
For when they had slaughtered their children for their idols,
they entered My sanctuary on the same day to profane it;
and lo, thus they did within My house.*

Jeremiah 6:9-11

*Thus says the Lord of hosts,
“They will thoroughly glean as the vine the remnant of Israel;*

***Pass your hand again like a grape gatherer over the branches.”
To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear?
Behold, their ears are closed and they cannot listen.
Behold, the word of the Lord has become a reproach to them;
They have no delight in it.
But I am full of the wrath of the Lord;
I am weary with holding it in.
“Pour it out on the children in the street
And on the gathering of young men together;
For both husband and wife shall be taken,
The aged and the very old.***

**Hosea 11:7
So My people are bent on turning from Me.
Though they call them to the One on high, none at all exalts Him.**

**Isaiah 29:13-16
Then the Lord said,
“Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me.
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,
Therefore behold,
I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous;
And the wisdom of their wise men will perish,
And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.”**

**Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord,
And whose deeds are done in a dark place,
And they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?”**

**You turn things around!
Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay,
That what is made would say to its maker, “He did not make me”;
Or what is formed say to Him Who formed it, “He has no understanding”?**

Sadly, grievously, the church today is no different...

What calamity will come upon Zion?

- 1.
- 2.

3.

Why would the mountain of the temple become high places of a forest? Why would trees grow so thick as to be called a forest? What would have happened to the temple?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Jeremiah 26:12-19

***Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and to all the people, saying,
“The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city
all the words that you have heard.
Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds
and obey the voice of the Lord your God;
and the Lord will change His mind about the misfortune
which He has pronounced against you.
But as for me, behold, I am in your hands;
do with me as is good and right in your sight.
Only know for certain that if you put me to death,
you will bring innocent blood on yourselves,
and on this city and on its inhabitants;
for truly the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”
Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets,
“No death sentence for this man!
For he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.”***

***Then some of the elders of the land rose up
and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying,
“Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah;
and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying,
‘Thus the Lord of hosts has said,
“Zion will be plowed as a field,
And Jerusalem will become ruins.
And the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.”’”***

***“Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death?
Did he not fear the Lord and entreat the favor of the Lord,
and the Lord changed His mind about the misfortune
which He had pronounced against them?
But we are committing a great evil against ourselves.””***

**Wow!
What a cross-reference!**

What a lesson!

Fear the Lord!

Entreat the favor of the Lord!

To continue to sin is to commit a great evil against yourself!

READ AND REASON

Well, would you say Chapter three has been the beginning of the second cycle—the judgment part? Peek ahead into Chapter four and see if you see the other part of the cycle—the salvation and restoration part.

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Chapter Four

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to Zion or Jerusalem with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 4** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Micah 4** and highlight every reference to Babylon with pink.

Read through **Micah 4** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Mountain of the LORD established as chief of the mountains – nations will come
2. In that Day – LORD will gather afflicted; Dominion will come
3. Zion will go to Babylon – there LORD will redeem her
4. LORD gathers nations – Israel will pulverize

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 4:1-5

What time frame is referred to in **verse one**?

What will come about in the last days?

What is the mountain of the house of the LORD?

What is the chief of the mountains?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Read these two passages and note their similarities.

Micah 4:1-3

***And it will come about in the last days
That the mountain of the house of the Lord
Will be established as the chief of the mountains.
It will be raised above the hills,
And the peoples will stream to it.
Many nations will come and say,
“Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord
And to the house of the God of Jacob,
That He may teach us about His ways
And that we may walk in His paths.”
For from Zion will go forth the law,
Even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And He will judge between many peoples
And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.
Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they train for war.***

Isaiah 2:1-4

**The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
Now it will come about that In the last days
The mountain of the house of the Lord
Will be established as the chief of the mountains,
And will be raised above the hills;
And all the nations will stream to it.
And many peoples will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
That He may teach us concerning His ways
And that we may walk in His paths.”
For the law will go forth from Zion
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And He will judge between the nations,
And will render decisions for many peoples;
And they will hammer their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they learn war.**

Ezekiel talks about the same time frame.

Ezekiel 37:21-28

**Say to them, “Thus says the Lord God,
‘Behold, I will take the sons of Israel
from among the nations where they have gone,
and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;
and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel;
and one king will be king for all of them;
and they will no longer be two nations
and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.
They will no longer defile themselves with their idols,
or with their detestable things,
or with any of their transgressions;
but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned,
and will cleanse them.
And they will be My people, and I will be their God.
My servant David will be king over them,
and they will all have one shepherd;
and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.
They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant,
in which your fathers lived;
and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever;**

**and David My servant will be their prince forever.
I will make a covenant of peace with them;
it will be an everlasting covenant with them.
And I will place them and multiply them,
and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.
My dwelling place also will be with them;
and I will be their God, and they will be My people.
And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel,
when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”**

And Zechariah speaks of the same wonderful future for Israel.

**Zechariah 8:1-8
Then the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying,
“Thus says the Lord of hosts,
‘I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.’”**

**“Thus says the Lord,
‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.
Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth,
and the mountain of the Lord of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’”**

**“Thus says the Lord of hosts,
‘Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem,
each man with his staff in his hand because of age.
And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.’”**

**“Thus says the Lord of hosts,
‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days,
will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the Lord of hosts.”**

**“Thus says the Lord of hosts,
‘Behold, I am going to save My people
from the land of the east and from the land of the west;
and I will bring them back
and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem;
and they shall be My people,
and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.’”**

What will be raised above the hills?

Who will come to the mountain of the house of the LORD?

How much traffic is described?

What will many nations say?

Who wants to go up the mountain of the LORD?

Do they want to go alone?

What do the nations acknowledge about the mountain?

Do the nations acknowledge that now?

What do the nations acknowledge about Jacob or Israel?

Do the nations acknowledge that now?

What do they expect to happen once they go up to the mountain of the LORD?

Who will teach them?

What will they be taught?

Will they obey what they learn?

How do you know?

Why will the peoples need to go to Zion?

Why will the nations need to go to Jerusalem?

What will go forth from Zion?

What will go forth from Jerusalem?

Are Zion and Jerusalem synonymous in this instance?

Is the Law synonymous with the Word of the LORD?

Is the Word of the LORD the Law?

Oh, if people only realized that today...

What will the LORD do from Jerusalem?

1.

2.

Who will hammer their swords into plowshares? (Context)

Who will hammer their spears into pruning hooks?

Will there be any more war?

Will there even be any training for war?

Why not?

Does the LORD'S judgment between many peoples have anything to do with being able to put down their weapons of war?

Does the LORD'S rendering of decisions for mighty, distant nations have anything to do with their being able to put away their weapons of war?

How?

Rather than being fearful, what will each be able to do?

POINT OF DEPTH

Isaiah 36:13-20

***Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in Judean and said,
“Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria.***

Thus says the king,

***‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you;
nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying,***

“The Lord will surely deliver us,

this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”

Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria,

***‘Make your peace with me and come out to me,
and eat each of his vine and each of his fig tree***

*and drink each of the waters of his own cistern,
until I come and take you away to a land like your own land,
a land of grain and new wine,
a land of bread and vineyards.
Beware that Hezekiah does not mislead you, saying, "The Lord will deliver us."
Has any one of the gods of the nations
delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?
Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad?
Where are the gods of Sepharvaim?
And when have they delivered Samaria from my hand?
Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land from my hand,
that the Lord would deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"*

The king of Assyria offered what he was not able to deliver.
He could not deliver to God's people and he could not deliver to his own people.
On the other hand...
God is able to deliver peace to His people and to all the nations of the world...
And He will!

Why will this come about?

What makes it certain?

Micah has been referring to the relationship between the nations and Zion in the last days. Now, he changes his focus to Israel. What does he say will be true of Israel in the last days?

Oh, to walk in the Name of the LORD God forever and ever! What a promise! What a future! Israel, you are the LORD'S beloved...

Micah 4:6-8

God now addresses the future of His people; what does He declare He will do?

1.

2.

Who caused the lame to be lame?

Who caused the outcasts to be outcasts?

Why did the LORD afflict His people?

What will God make of the lame?

Into what will God make the outcasts?

Who will reign over them?

Where will they be?

When will the LORD reign over them in Mount Zion?

When will the “from now on” begin? (Context – go back to **verse 6**.)

What will come to the tower of the flock? (Figurative for the watch-tower of the Shepherd-King)

What will come to the hill of the daughter of Zion?

What will the daughter of Zion have when the LORD reigns over all from Zion?

What was her former dominion?

Micah 4:9-10

But the last days had not begun yet for Israel; she would still go through the calamity from the LORD. **Verse nine** pictures Israel's reaction to that calamity. What will Israel do when the calamity comes upon her? (The time phrase "now" is referring to the future present tense when it happens to her.)

Why is it asked whether there is a king among them?

Would their earthly king be able to save them from God's calamity?

Why is it asked whether their counselor has perished?

Would their earthly counselor be able to deliver them from God's calamity?

How is their agony described?

What is Israel told to do?

1.

2.

What is she called?

What phrase is mentioned three times in this short passage?

1.

2.

3.

What will happen to the daughter of Zion?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Before God would assemble and gather those He had afflicted, He would afflict them. He would take them out of the land and send them into captivity. From what city would the daughter of Zion be taken?

Where would she dwell?

Where would she be taken?

What would happen while she was in Babylon?

1.

2.

Who would be her rescuer?

Who would be her redeemer?

From whom would the daughter of Zion be redeemed?

Micah 4:11-13

Verse 11 begins with “and now”. To what time is this referring?

What has been assembled against Zion?

What do those nations say?

1.

2.

But what do those nations not know?

What do those nations not understand?

What are the thoughts of the LORD and what is His purpose?

Who has brought them against Zion?

Why do the nations think they are assembled against Zion?

Do they think they are assembled against Zion according to their own will?

Do you think they would believe for a second that they were there because God assembled them?

Even if they could possibly concede that the God of Israel brought them against Israel, which they cannot, would they ever in a million years think that they were going to be the one who was going to be destroyed in the battle?

Remember, it is many nations against teeny tiny Israel. What would all appearances cause anyone watching to believe?

Why have they been gathered against Israel? Why has the LORD gathered them?

What are sheaves?

What is a threshing floor?

What is going to happen to these sheaves on this particular threshing floor?

What does God command the daughter of Zion to do?

1.

2.

Whom is she to thresh?

How will she thresh the many nations? What will God do for her?

1.

2.

How well will Israel thresh the many nations?

What will Israel have once the many peoples are pulverized?

What will Israel do with the unjust gain and wealth from the nations?

READ AND REASON

**Did you see the shift from judgment to salvation and restoration?
Keep watching, this cycle is not over yet!**

MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Five

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to the One Who will go forth for the LORD with a red cross.

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 5** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 5** and highlight every reference to Assyria in light green.

Read through **Micah 5** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. One will go forth for the LORD
2. When Assyria attacks, One from LORD will deliver
3. Remnant of Jacob will cut off all enemies
4. LORD will execute vengeance

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 5:1-5a

Who is told to muster themselves in troops?

Who is being referred to as the daughter of troops?

Against whom has a siege been laid?

What will happen to the Judge of Israel?

Who will smite the Judge of Israel on the cheek?

How is Bethlehem Ephrathah described?

What will come forth from this little insignificant place?

Over whom will this One rule?

For Whom will this One rule?

What do we know about this One?

If His goings forth are from the days of eternity, Who is He?

What will God do until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child?

Give who up?

Who is “she”?

What will happen once she has borne a child?

Who will return to the sons of Israel?

Who are the remainder of His brethren? Could it be the Northern Kingdom?

Whose brethren?

When will the One arise?

What will the One do when He arises?

How will the One shepherd His flock?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

**Jesus is the One Who is prophesied in this passage.
He is shown to be God and He is shown to shepherd the flock of God in the
strength of the Lord and in the majesty of the Name of the Lord His God.
He is God...yet God is His God...Jesus...**

Who is the flock?

Who will remain?

Why will the flock live in safety?

Who will be great?

How great will He be?

What will This One be?

Micah 5:5b-6

Who will invade Israel?

What will the Assyrian do to the citadels?

Who will rise against him? Who is “we”?

Who are the seven shepherds and the eight leaders of men?

Who will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword?

Is the land of Nimrod the same as the land of Assyria?

Who will be delivered from the Assyrian?

Who will deliver Israel from the Assyrian?

What will the Assyrian do?

1.

2.

Micah 5:7-9

What will the remnant of Jacob be like among many peoples?

1.

2.

When?

Does dew wait for man?

Does dew delay for man?

Do showers wait for man?

Do showers delay for man?

What will the remnant of Jacob be among the nations, among many peoples?

1.

2.

What is a lion like among the beasts of the forest?

What is a young lion like among flocks of sheep?

When a lion passes through flocks of sheep, what will he do?

1.

2.

Is there anyone who can rescue the flock?

Whose hand will be lifted up against its adversaries? (Context)

What will happen to all of the remnant's enemies?

Micah 5:10-15

What will the LORD do in That Day? (Don't worry if you don't get exactly ten.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

What will be cut off from Israel in That Day?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What will the LORD do to their chariots?

What will He do to their cities and fortifications?

What will happen to fortune-tellers in That Day?

What will the LORD do to their Asherim and their cities?

Who will execute vengeance?

How will the LORD execute His vengeance?

Upon whom will the LORD execute His vengeance?

READ AND REASON

What do you think?

Was Chapter Five part of a cycle – either judgment or salvation and restoration?

Sneak a peek into Chapter Six.

What seems to be starting all over again?

Could Chapter Five have ended the second cycle?

Could Chapter Six be the beginning of the third cycle?

MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Six

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every reference to sin or wickedness, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (a circle with a slash through it).

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Micah 6** and mark every place with a set of orange brackets.

Read through **Micah 6** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD has a case against His people
2. The LORD's requirements
3. His people's wickedness

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 6:1-5

How does the chapter begin?

Who is speaking? (Do not worry if you are not sure of the answer to the next few questions concerning **verse one**.)

Who is called to hear what the LORD is saying?

Who is called to arise and plead his/her case?

If it is Israel who is called upon to plead her case, before whom is she to plead?

1.

2.

In **verse two**, who is told to listen to the indictment of the Lord?

1.

2.

Against whom does the Lord have an indictment?

To Whom does Israel belong?

With whom will He dispute?

If Israel belongs to God, and she does, then does God have the right to expect a certain behavior from her?

According to Micah so far, has Israel been found faithful to the behavior God is demanding of her?

Now God is going to speak directly to His people. What question(s) does He ask them?

1.

2.

The question is rhetorical, yet because it is such an incredulous idea, what does God demand His people do?

Do they answer?

Why not?

What does God recall to His people that He did for them?

From where did God deliver His people?

Who ransomed Israel from Egypt, the house of slavery?

Did God leave them on their own once He had brought up His people out of Egypt?

What did He do for them?

POINT OF DEPTH

Listen to this Psalm and hear the goodnesses of the Lord to Israel.

Psalm 77

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun.

A Psalm of Asaph.

My voice rises to God, and I will cry aloud;

My voice rises to God, and He will hear me.

In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;

In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;

My soul refused to be comforted.

When I remember God, then I am disturbed;

When I sigh, then my spirit grows faint. Selah.

You have held my eyelids open;

I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

I have considered the days of old,

The years of long ago.

I will remember my song in the night;

I will meditate with my heart,

And my spirit ponders:

Will the Lord reject forever?

And will He never be favorable again?

Has His lovingkindness ceased forever?

Has His promise come to an end forever?

Has God forgotten to be gracious,

Or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion? Selah.

Then I said, "It is my grief,

That the right hand of the Most High has changed."

I shall remember the deeds of the Lord;

Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

I will meditate on all Your work

And muse on Your deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy;

*What god is great like our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your strength among the peoples.
You have by Your power redeemed Your people,
The sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.
The waters saw You, O God;
The waters saw You, they were in anguish;
The deeps also trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
The skies gave forth a sound;
Your arrows flashed here and there.
The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
The lightnings lit up the world;
The earth trembled and shook.
Your way was in the sea
And Your paths in the mighty waters,
And Your footprints may not be known.
You led Your people like a flock
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

God continues to speak to His people. What does He recall to their memory?

What did Balak king of Moab counsel? **Numbers 22:1-6**

What did Balaam son of Beor answer him? **Numbers 23:4-10**

In summary, what happened? **Numbers 23:11-12**

What else does God tell His people to remember and consider?

Shittim was the last place that Israel camped before entering the land, while Gilgal was the first place that Israel camped after entering the land God was giving to them. What happened in between? **Joshua 3:5 – 4:24**. Pay special attention to **Joshua 4:21-24**.

Why were the people to bear in mind the things God recalled to them?

In answer to God's question(s) in **verse three**, God, Himself, gives a wonderful answer in **verses 4-5**. Rather than having done something wrong or harsh to Israel, what had God done?

Micah 6:6-8

Micah speaks as though the people were responding. What question is posed?

What is assumed that every man should do?

1.

2.

How is God defined?

What possible answers are given by the petitioner? (These are given in the form of questions.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Would burnt offerings cause the LORD to annul His indictment against them?

Would yearling calves cause the LORD to discontinue His dispute against Israel?

Would the LORD delight if thousands of rams were offered?

Would the LORD delight if ten thousand rivers of oil were offered?

Would even the firstborn child, the fruit of the body, be acceptable for the rebellious acts, the sin of the soul?

Has man already been told what is good and what the LORD requires?

What has man been told?

1.

2.

3.

Why would the burnt offerings of calves and rams, or the offerings of oil, or even a firstborn be rejected by the LORD?

What was missing?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Men want God to be satisfied with outward deeds,
In fact, they want Him to be impressed.
But He is neither impressed nor satisfied.**

Jeremiah 6:20

***For what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba
And the sweet cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable
And your sacrifices are not pleasing to Me.***

1 Samuel 15:22

***Samuel said,
Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
As in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.***

**In fact, beyond His being unimpressed and dissatisfied,
He despises their worthless offerings
And considers the people to be trampling His courts
When they bring their abominable sacrifices!**

Isaiah 1:10-13

***Hear the Word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah.
“What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”***

Says the Lord.

***“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.
When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?
Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.
New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.***

**God demanded their offerings be the fruit from a soft and tender heart,
But they had withheld their heart from God.**

Isaiah 29:13-14

*Then the Lord said,
“Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,
Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people,
Wondrously marvelous;
And the wisdom of their wise men will perish,
And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.”*

The words ‘wondrously marvelous’ are not positive!
They are referring to an astonishing *calamity!*

But, did the people know what God really required?
Oh, yes...
As Micah rebuked them, “God has already told you.”

Micah 6:8

*He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?*

He told them when He gave them His Law...

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

*Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you,
but to fear the Lord your God,
to walk in all His ways
and love Him,
and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul,
and to keep the Lord’s commandments
and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?*

And He told them again, quite recently through Isaiah, in fact...

Isaiah 1:16-17

*Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.*

***Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.***

What was missing?

Psalm 34:9
***O fear the Lord, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.***

Micah 6:9-16

What will the voice of the LORD do?

Who is the city?

What is sound wisdom?

How does that agree with **Psalm 34:9** above?

If it is sound wisdom to fear the Name of the LORD (and it is), what should be their response to His voice when He calls?

To whom will God call?

For how many verses does God speak directly to the “tribe”?

What question does God ask?

Who has appointed Jerusalem's time?

What is the next question God asks?

Who is the wicked house?

What is in the wicked house?

What does the "man" bring into the wicked house?

1.

2.

What are treasures of wickedness?

How are these treasures obtained?

What is a short measure?

What is cursed?

POINT OF DEPTH

**When God says, "Is there yet a man in the wicked house..."
He is saying that they continue in their sin despite His warnings.**

**Less than 50 years earlier,
Amos warned the very same people
to stop the very same sin.**

Amos 8:4-6
Hear this,
you who trample the needy,
to do away with the humble of the land,
saying,
“When will the new moon be over,
So that we may sell grain,
And the Sabbath,
that we may open the wheat market,
To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger,
And to cheat with dishonest scales,
So as to buy the helpless for money
And the needy for a pair of sandals,
And that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?”

What question does God ask next?

Can God justify wicked scales?

Can God justify a bag of deceptive weights?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Leviticus 19:35-36
You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measurement of weight, or capacity.
You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin;
I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out from the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16
You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small.
You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small.
You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure,
that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.
For everyone who does these things,
everyone who acts unjustly is an abomination to the Lord your God.

Proverbs 11:1
***A false balance is an abomination to the Lord,
But a just weight is His delight.***

Proverbs 16:11
***A just balance and scales belong to the Lord;
All the weights of the bag are His concern.***

Proverbs 20:23
***Differing weights are an abomination to the Lord,
And a false scale is not good.***

How are the rich men of the city described?

How are the residents of the city described?

1.

2.

What will God do?

1.

2.

3.

God says, "So also". Why? What is the comparison?

Why will God make Jerusalem sick?

Why will God strike down Jerusalem?

Why will God desolate Jerusalem?

Would Jerusalem eat?

Yet, what would be wrong?

What will be in her midst?

What will she try to do?

Will she be successful?

What would God do to anything she might be able to preserve?

Would she sow?

Yet, what would be the result?

Would she tread olives?

Yet, what would be the problem?

Would she tread grapes?

Yet, what would she not have?

How is the behavior of the city described?

1.

2.

What are the devices of Omri?

What are the devices of Ahab?

What would God do?

1.

2.

3.

Why would God give up the city for destruction?

Why would God give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem for derision?

Who would bear the reproach of God's people?

What would be the reproach of God's people?

READ AND REASON

What do you think?

What were the statutes of Omri?

What were the works of the house of Ahab?

What were the devices of Omri and Ahab?

1 Kings 16:23-24

In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel and reigned twelve years; he reigned six years at Tirzah.

He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built on the hill, and named the city which he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

1 Kings 16:25-26

Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, and acted more wickedly than all who were before him.

For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sins which he made Israel sin, provoking the Lord God of Israel with their idols.

1 Kings 16:30-33

Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.

It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him.

So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

1 Kings 21:1-16

Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money."

But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?"

So he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you a vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.' "

Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. Now she wrote in the letters, saying, "Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people;

and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, 'You cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them.

They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people. Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead." When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

MICAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Seven

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If you think it refers to the Day of the LORD, fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, with a blue star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with a brown star of David. (If you are not sure, leave it alone until you are.)

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to sin or wickedness, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (a circle with a slash through it).

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every place with a set of orange brackets.

Read through **Micah 7** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Micah 7** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Godly person has perished from the land
2. Micah waits for the LORD
3. Bear indignation until God executes justice
4. “Shepherd Your people as in days of old”
5. God will show miracles as in days of old
6. God will give Truth and Lovingkindness to Israel as promised from days of old

READ AND ANSWER

Micah 7:1-6

Who is speaking as this chapter begins?

What exclamation of distress does Micah use?

What is wrong?

To whom does he compare himself?

1.

2.

In his simile, will the fruit pickers find a first-ripe fig?

Will the grape gatherers find a cluster of grapes to eat?

POINT OF DEPTH

God's Law made provision for the needy of the land.

Leviticus 19:9-10

*Now when you reap the harvest of your land,
you shall not reap to the very corners of your field,
nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.
Nor shall you glean your vineyard,
nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard;
you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger.
I am the Lord your God.*

Deuteronomy 24:21

*When you gather the grapes of your vineyard,
you shall not go over it again;
it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.*

Verse 2 interprets **verse 1**; Micah says there is absolutely no fruit left in the land. Who is the "fruit"?

What has happened to the godly person (the grapes)?

What has happened to the upright person (the first-ripe figs)?

What is left in the land?

What are they doing?

Just how evil are they?

What does the prince demand?

For what does the judge ask?

A great man is one who had great power and authority. When he spoke, he received what he wanted. What did a great man speak?

At whose cost would he receive the desire of his soul?

Who weaves their evil plans together?

1.

2.

3.

Why do the prince, the judge, and the great man weave their evil plans together?

Like what is the best of men among them?

What does a briar do?

What did these men do to those with whom they were in contact?

To what is the most righteous man compared?

What does a thorn hedge do?

What did these men do to those with whom they were in contact?

What would come for Israel?

When would Israel's punishment come?

What is a watchman?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Jeremiah 6:17

***And I set watchmen over you, saying, "Listen to the sound of the trumpet!"
But they said, "We will not listen."***

Ezekiel 3:17

***Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel;
whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.***

Ezekiel 33:7

***Now as for you, son of man,
I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel;
so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me.***

What will happen when the day of their punishment comes?

Who will be confused?

Who is not trustworthy?

In whom are they not to have confidence?

From whom are they to guard their lips?

Why?

How does a son treat his father?

How does a daughter treat her mother?

How does a daughter-in-law treat her mother-in-law?

Who are a man's enemies?

Micah 7:7-8

This chapter started with Micah speaking in first-person; then, as he continued, he spoke in second and third person about the Israelites. Now he speaks in first-person once again. In contrast to how the ungodly persons in the land respond to God, what will Micah do?

1.

2.

Micah will watch expectantly for the LORD; what is it that he is expecting?

How does he describe the LORD?

What does he know God will do?

What warning does Micah give to his enemies? (Perhaps Micah is speaking on behalf of the faithful remnant.)

Though Micah, as part of Israel, will fall when Israel falls, what is promised?

Though Micah and Israel dwell in darkness, yet what is the LORD to them?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Micah says he will “wait—trust—hope” for the God of his salvation...
And so should we...**

Listen to what the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament has to say:

This yāḥal “hope” is not a pacifying wish of the imagination which drowns out troubles,
nor is it uncertain (as in the Greek concept),
but rather yāḥal “hope” is the solid ground of expectation for the righteous.
As such it is directed towards God.
The Psalmist twice commands:
“O Israel, hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is lovingkindness (Heb ḥesed),
and with him is abundant redemption” (Ps 130:7; cf. 131:3).

Yāḥal, “hope” is a close synonym to bāṭaḥ “trust” and qāwâ “wait for, hope for,” as in Mic
7:7, “But as for me, I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.”

The last phrase clearly demonstrates the confidence of the righteous in God’s future action
at a time when sin is being judged.

But further, the verse reflects not only the ground of faith, the Lord himself,
but the saving activity of his God.

In short, that which is hoped for is not some desideratum arising from one’s imagination,
but in God himself and whatever he should propose to accomplish.

One is reminded of the Christian’s confidence as expressed in Rom 8:28-29.

Hence the godly may confidently rest on God’s word, e.g.

“Those who fear thee shall see me rejoice, because I have hoped in thy word” (Ps 119:74).¹

Micah 7:9-13

Who will bear the indignation of the LORD?

Why?

For how long?

¹Harris, R. Laird ; Harris, Robert Laird ; Archer, Gleason Leonard ; Waltke, Bruce K.: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. electronic ed. Chicago : Moody Press, 1999, c1980, S. 374

What will God do?

1.

2.

3.

What will be seen?

Do you think Micah has said all of this concerning himself? Or is he perhaps, representing the righteous remnant that will be in place at the time of God's justice?

Who else will see God's righteous dealing with Israel?

What will cover the enemy?

What had the enemy said to Israel?

Who will look upon Israel's enemy?

What will happen to the enemy?

How is the trampling of the enemy pictured?

What will happen in That Day?

1.

2.

3.

Why will Israel be building walls?

Why will Israel's boundary need to be extended?

Who will come to Israel?

From where will they come?

What will happen to the earth?

Why?

1.

2.

Micah 7:14

The attention now turns to the relationship between God and His people at that time. What does a righteous remnant of the sheep of Israel ask its Shepherd to do?

To Whom does the flock belong?

Will the flock obey if the Shepherd shepherds with His scepter?

Will the flock be safe if the Shepherd shepherds with His scepter?

Where does the flock of the Shepherd dwell?

Are there other flocks?

Where is the woodland?

Is there a bounty of food for the flock?

Where do they feed?

To when do they compare their feeding?

Micah 7:15-17

Now the Shepherd answers the flock. What will He show them?

To what does He compare these miracles?

Who will see the miracles done by the Shepherd?

How will the nations react?

Of what will they be ashamed?

What will they do with their hand?

Why?

What will be the condition of their ears?

How are they compared to a serpent?

How will they be like reptiles of the earth?

From where will they come?

To Whom will they come?

In what manner will they come?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Trembling, in dread, afraid...
Sounds like they finally see God for Who He is...
Sounds like they finally see themselves for who they are...**

Why will they come out of their fortresses?

Why will they come to the Lord in dread?

Why will they be afraid before God?

Micah 7:18-20

Micah's name means "Who is like Jehovah"? What does Micah ask?

Who *is* a God like Jehovah?

POINT OF DEPTH

Exodus 15:11

***"Who is like You among the gods, O Lord?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
Awesome in praises, working wonders?"***

Psalm 35:10

***All my bones will say,
"Lord, who is like You,
Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him,
And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"***

Psalm 71:19

***For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens,
You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?***

Psalm 77:13

***Your way, O God, is holy;
What god is great like our God?***

Psalm 89:6

***For who in the skies is comparable to the Lord?
Who among the sons of the mighty is like the Lord,***

Psalm 113:5

***Who is like the Lord our God,
Who is enthroned on high,***

Is there a god like Jehovah?

Jeremiah 10:6-7

***There is none like You, O Lord;
You are great, and great is Your name in might.
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
Indeed it is Your due!***

**For among all the wise men of the nations
And in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.**

What does God, Jehovah, the Only God, the True God, the Living God do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Whose iniquity does God pardon?

Is the remnant perfect?

How do you know?

What does God do with the rebellious act of the remnant?

How is the remnant connected to Him?

What will God once again do for His people?

What will God do with their iniquities?

What will God do with their sins?

How many of their sins will be cast into the depths of the sea?

What will God give to Jacob?

Who does Jacob represent?

What will God give to Abraham?

Who is Abraham?

To whom did God swear that He would give faithfulness and lovingkindness?

When did God swear His promises to Israel's forefathers?

READ AND REASON

Do you see the end of the final cycle? It started in Chapter six and has for over one-half of Chapter seven promised restoration, compassion, unchanging love... Micah closes his book with a prayer to the One Who has promised these things.

Now, before we close the book of Micah, let me ask you a question. Do you know Who Israel's God is?

Isaiah 41

***Coastlands, listen to Me in silence,
And let the peoples gain new strength;
Let them come forward, then let them speak;
Let us come together for judgment.***

***Who has aroused one from the east whom He calls in righteousness to His feet?
He delivers up nations before him and subdues kings.
He makes them like dust with his sword, as the wind-driven chaff with his bow.
He pursues them, passing on in safety,
By a way he had not been traversing with his feet.***

***Who has performed and accomplished it,
Calling forth the generations from the beginning?
'I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'***

**The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
The ends of the earth tremble;
They have drawn near and have come.
Each one helps his neighbor and says to his brother, "Be strong!"
So the craftsman encourages the smelter,
And he who smooths metal with the hammer encourages him who beats the anvil,
Saying of the soldering, "It is good";
And he fastens it with nails, so that it will not totter.**

**But you,
Israel,
My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
And called from its remotest parts
And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.**

**Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.**

**Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored;
Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.
You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them,
Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.**

**For I am the Lord your God,
Who upholds your right hand,
Who says to you,
"Do not fear, I will help you."**

**"Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel;
I will help you,"
declares the Lord,
"and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges;
You will thresh the mountains and pulverize them,
And will make the hills like chaff.
You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away,
And the storm will scatter them;
But you will rejoice in the Lord,
You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.**

***The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none,
And their tongue is parched with thirst;
I, the Lord, will answer them Myself,
As the God of Israel I will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights and springs in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water.
I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree;
I will place the juniper in the desert together with the box tree and the cypress,
That they may see and recognize,
And consider and gain insight as well,
That the hand of the Lord has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.***

***“Present your case,” the Lord says.
“Bring forward your strong arguments,” The King of Jacob says.
Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place;
As for the former events, declare what they were,
That we may consider them and know their outcome.
Or announce to us what is coming;
Declare the things that are going to come afterward,
That we may know that you are gods;
Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.
Behold, you are of no account,
And your work amounts to nothing;
He who chooses you is an abomination.***

***I have aroused one from the north, and he has come;
From the rising of the sun he will call on My Name;
And he will come upon rulers as upon mortar,
Even as the potter treads clay.”***

***Who has declared this from the beginning, that we might know?
Or from former times, that we may say, “He is right!”?
Surely there was no one who declared,
Surely there was no one who proclaimed,
Surely there was no one who heard your words.***

***Formerly I said to Zion, “Behold, here they are.”
And to Jerusalem, “I will give a messenger of good news.”***

***But when I look, there is no one,
And there is no counselor among them who, if I ask, can give an answer.
Behold, all of them are false;
Their works are worthless,
Their molten images are wind and emptiness.***

Romans 11:33-36

***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?
Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever.
Amen.***

Jeremiah 10:6-7

***There is none like You, O Lord;
You are great, and great is Your name in might.
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
Indeed it is Your due!
For among all the wise men of the nations
And in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.***