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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Micah 1.

(2014)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Micah 1.

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### Topics.

- Samaria's sins have come to Judah and reached Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem in the history of God's revelation to man
- The LORD is coming out of his place.
- Judgment is coming to Jerusalem and Samaria.
- Samaria will be laid waste.
- An incurable wound of sin.
- Disaster is coming from the LORD.
- Make yourselves bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile.
- The glory of the spiritual temple God is building in Christ.

**INTRODUCTION:** Micah prophesied in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (about 750–700 B.C.), at about the same time as Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, and Micah denounced the wealthy, who were oppressing the poor, and warned of impending judgment. The Northern Kingdom actually fell during Micah's ministry, in 722, and Judah almost fell in 701 (2 Kings 18–20).

The book contains three sections, which alternate between words of warning and messages of hope. Micah told of a day when there would be peace among all nations, who would then be able to beat their swords into plowshares (4:3), and of a royal deliverer who would save Israel from all her enemies. This deliverer would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### Samaria's Sins have come to Judah and reached Jerusalem.

Micah 1:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

Micah in a vision sees the future of Samaria (the ten tribes) and Jerusalem (Judah) (the two tribes). He is about to tell everyone what he has seen in this vision. A biblical vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

**Jotham:** (king of Judah) was reigning around the time of Isaiah, Hosea and Micah, he was a great builder, fortifying several places in Judah and building the upper gate of the temple. For his story see (2 Kings 15:32-38) (2 Chron. 27).

**Ahaz:** (king of Judah) was the father of Hezekiah. He made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. Ahaz sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus and said, "Because the gods of the Kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me." He cut the Temple vessels in pieces, closed the doors of the temple, made altars in every corner of Jerusalem, and made high places to burn incense to other gods in the cities of Judah. After the death of Ahaz, his body was not brought into the sepulchers of the kings because of his great wickedness.

**Hezekiah:** (king of Judah) was the son of Ahaz. Hezekiah means, Jehovah has strengthened he was twenty-five years old when he began his reign. Hezekiah was a good king of Judah for twenty-nine years. One of his first acts was to destroy the idolatrous altars and high places his father Ahaz had established and cleanse the temple.

**Samaria was the capital of the kingdom of the ten tribes:** Ahab and Jezebel his Phoenician bride established Samaria in a tradition of luxury, vice and paganism. Amos, Micah, Isaiah and Hosea raised their protest against Ahab's and Jezebels paganism and eventually Assyrian conquest brought the utter doom to Samaria, which the prophets had predicted.

**Jerusalem in the history of God's revelation to man:** in those divine acts by which redemption has been accomplished, Jerusalem by far is the most important site on this earth. It was the royal city, the capital of the only Kingdom God has (thus far) established among men; here the temple was erected, and here alone, during the Kingdom age, were sacrifices legitimately offered.

This was the city of the prophets, as well as the kings of David's line. Here occurred the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, David's greater Son. Upon and assembled group in this city the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, giving birth to the Christian church, and here the first great church council was held. Rightly did the chronicler refer to Jerusalem as the city which Jehovah had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put His name there (1 Kings 14:21).

Jerusalem felt God's presence. She was assured of His love and there has never been another city on earth that has suffered the LORD'S travail for her worthiness of the destiny to which God has called her. The very name of the city means peace; we are told that in this place, God Himself will give peace (Hag 2:9). The children of God are exhorted to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). Isaiah at the end of his great series of prophecies returns to the theme, "Thus saith Jehovah, behold, I will extend peace to her like a river" (Isa 66:12). This word Salem is the basis of the Arabic greeting Salem and the Jewish greeting "Shalom," both meaning "peace be with you."

There is a New Jerusalem to be established on earth built by God, the glory of the LORD and of the Lamb will be the light of the New Jerusalem, by Jerusalem light the nations will walk and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into the New City of Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10) (Rev 21:24). For a greater insight into the glory of this temple that the LORD is building, see the title: "The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ." At the end of this study.

### **The LORD is coming out of His Place.**

Micah 1:3-4 ----- <sup>3</sup>For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. <sup>4</sup>And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.

- From the LORD'S perspective the high places of the earth are Jerusalem and Samaria because this is where His chosen people are dwelling (v4-5).

- The mountains will melt under God, and the valleys will split open, like wax means Jerusalem and Israel in Samaria will be destroyed.
- The LORD coming out of His place in this context, means that God is about to bring judgment on Judah the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Israel dwelling in the land of Samaria.

### **Judgment is coming to Jerusalem and Samaria.**

Micah 1:5 ----- <sup>5</sup>All this (judgment and destruction) is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?

- Samaria is the sin of Israel and the high place of Judah is Jerusalem.

Judah and Israel have become so corrupt and their sins so great the LORD is about to rise up out of His place and use the nation of Assyria to destroy Israel in the land of Samaria and take them captive and use Babylon to destroy the city of Jerusalem and take its inhabitants captive.

### **Samaria will be Laid Waste.**

Micah 1:6-8 ----- <sup>6</sup>Therefore I (the LORD) will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour down her stones into the valley and uncover her foundations. <sup>7</sup>All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste, for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return. <sup>8</sup>For this I will lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, and mourning like the ostriches.

Even after many warnings Israel continued in their gross sin and idol worship, and eventually Assyria's armies went through Samaria and did exactly what Micah is telling the people he saw in his vision regarding Israel in the land of Samaria.

### **Notice the language, the LORD says two things: -**

1. I will lament and wail, God takes no delight in judging His people, I will lament and wail applies both to God's people because of their suffering and to God because of His love for them.
2. God will lament and go stripped naked meaning, be totally humbled this is because the behaviour of God's people reflects rightly or wrongly to others who God is. In this case God's people are a terrible reflection of God and of His name and His character, so He is forced to judge and humble them, but in doing so God is also humbling Himself, because, if His people are made weak, it appears to the pagan nations around them that their God is weak.

### **An Incurable Wound of Sin.**

Micah 1:9 ----- <sup>9</sup>For her (Samaria) wound is incurable, and it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.

God is so patient, He had hoped Israel would turn from their evil ways and repent, but He sees that their wound is incurable, meaning they are so corrupt, they cannot recover, they have had prophet after prophet warning them, yet they did not listen. Worse still their sins like a contagious disease have reached Judah the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

### **Great Sorrow and Destruction.**

Micah 1:10-11 ----- <sup>10</sup>Tell it not in Gath; weep not at all; in Beth-le-aphrah roll yourselves in the dust. <sup>11</sup>Pass on your way, inhabitants of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; the inhabitants of Zaanan do not come out; the lamentation of Beth-ezel shall take away from you its standing place.

Micah appears to be saying to these towns, the destruction of Samaria and Jerusalem is going to be so great, the sorrow will be enormous, all the surrounding

towns of Judah and Samaria will be affected, any town that had any standing or authority in the community will lose it, but the people looking on are not to weep because Israel and Judah brought it on themselves, by their constant rebellion toward God and their stubbornness to refuse to listen to His prophets.

### **Disaster is coming from the LORD.**

Micah 1:12-13 ----- <sup>12</sup>For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously for good, because disaster has come down from the LORD to the gate of Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish; it was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, for in you (Zion) were found the transgressions of Israel.

Mount Zion is called the LORD'S Holy Mountain because the LORD'S Holy city Jerusalem sits on it. The name Zion embraces the city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

**Sins in the land of Judah and Jerusalem at this time:** were gross idolatry, astrology and occultism. They not only had altars for worshiping the host of heaven (the sun, moon, stars and planets) in the court of the temple and worshipped at the altars of Baal, but were even sacrificing their sons on the altars of Molech in the Hinnom valley. Added to these abominations they were shedding innocent blood, cheating the innocent out of justice, not helping the less fortunate and oppressing the poor for their own gain all of these gross wickedness's permeated the land of Judah and Israel.

**Micah in his vision:** sees absolute disaster coming to Jerusalem from God, it is interesting to note that it is Babylon that eventually destroys Jerusalem, but Micah does not know this, in his vision he simply sees destruction coming to the city and its inhabitants, and credits it to the work of God, this is what the expression, "the LORD is coming out of his place" (v3) means, God is rising up in judgment on Judah and Israel and He will us Babylon to do it.

**Lachish:** the prophet Micah condemned Lachish's chariots as "the beginning of Zion's sin," perhaps because of the city's use as a staging point for the extravagant importation of Egyptian horses (to be used for war).

### **The Glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.**

Micah 1:14-15 ----- <sup>14</sup>Therefore you (the inhabitants of Jerusalem) shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah; the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem will give a parting gift because they will be leaving Jerusalem and taken captive into Babylon for seventy years.

Moresheth-gath, Achzib, Mareshah and Adullam are all towns or villages of Judah.

### **Make yourselves Bald as the Eagle, for they shall go from you into Exile.**

Micah 1:16 ----- <sup>16</sup>Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight; make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile.

Micah calls Judah and Israel to repent for the sake of their children before this calamity and devastating destruction befalls them and their children are taken into captivity (exile).

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### **The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ.**

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building.

Peter wrote: -

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him Will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

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End.