

MICAH, a contemporary of Isaiah, prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah over Judah, and of Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea over Israel (2 Ki. 15. 23-30; 17. 1-6). He was a prophet in Judah (Jer. 26. 17-19), but the book called by his name chiefly concerns Samaria.

Micah falls into three prophetic strains, each beginning, "Hear": I. 1. 1-2. 13. II. 3. 1-5. 15. III. 6. 1-7. 20.

The events recorded in Micah cover a period of 40 years (Ussher).

## CHAPTER 1.

*Part I. (1) The case of Jehovah against the "house of Israel" (Mic. 1. 1-2. 13).*

THE word of the LORD that came to <sup>a</sup>Micah the Morasthite in the days of <sup>b</sup>Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

3 For, behold, the LORD <sup>c</sup>cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon <sup>d</sup>the high places of the earth.

4 And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

5 For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? *is it* not Samaria? and what are the high places of Judah? *are they* not Jerusalem?

6 <sup>1</sup>Therefore I will make Samaria <sup>e</sup>as a heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof.

7 And all the groves there-of shall be beaten to pieces, and all the <sup>f</sup>hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate: for she gathered *it* of the hire of an harlot, and they shall return to the hire of an harlot.

8 Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked: <sup>g</sup>I

B.C. 750.

will make a wailing like the dragons, and mourning as the owls.

9 For her wound *is* incurable; for it is come unto Judah; he is come unto the gate of my people, *even* to Jerusalem.

10 Declare ye *it* not at Gath, weep ye not at all: in the house of Aphrah roll thyself in the dust.

11 Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Saphir, having thy shame naked: the inhabitant of Zaanan came not forth in the mourning of Beth-ezel; he shall receive of you his standing.

12 For the inhabitant of Maroth waited carefully for good: but <sup>h</sup>evil came down from the LORD unto the gate of Jerusalem.

13. O thou inhabitant of Lachish, bind the chariot to the swift beast: she *is* the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion: for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee.

14 Therefore shalt thou give presents to Moresheth-gath: the houses of <sup>i</sup>Achzib *shall be* a lie to the kings of Israel.

15 Yet will I bring an heir unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah: he shall come unto <sup>j</sup>Adullam the glory of Israel.

16 Make thee bald, and poll thee for thy delicate children; enlarge thy baldness as the eagle; for they are gone into captivity from thee.

## CHAPTER 2.

*(Jehovah against Israel, continued).*

WOE to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

<sup>1</sup> In verses 6-16 the Assyrian invasion is described. Cf. 2 Ki. 17. 1-18. This is the local circumstance which gives rise to the prophecy of the greater invasion in the last days (Mic. 4. 9-13), and of the Lord's deliverance at Armageddon (Rev. 16. 14; 19. 17).

2 And they covet fields, and take *them* by violence; and houses, and take *them* away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

3 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against <sup>a</sup>this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: <sup>b</sup>for this time *is* evil.

4 In that day shall *one* take up a parable against you, and lament with a doleful lamentation, and say, We be utterly spoiled: he hath changed the portion of my people: how hath he removed *it* from me! turning away he hath divided our fields.

5 Therefore thou shalt have none that shall cast a cord by lot in the congregation of the LORD.

6 Prophecy ye not, *say they to them* that prophecy: they shall not prophecy to them, *that* they shall not take shame.

7 *O thou that art* named the house of Jacob, is the <sup>c</sup>spirit of the LORD straitened? *are* these his doings? do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?

8 Even of late my people is risen up as an enemy: ye pull off the robe with the garment from them that pass by securely as men averse from war.

9 The women of my people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away my glory for ever.

10 Arise ye, and depart; for this *is* not *your* rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy *you*, even with a sore destruction.

11 If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, *saying*, I will prophecy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

### (2) *The promise to the remnant.*

12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the <sup>d</sup>remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of *the multitude* of men.

13 The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.

B.C. 730.

## CHAPTER 3.

### Part II. (Mic. 3. 1-5. 15.) (1) *The coming judgment of the captivities.*

AND I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; *Is it* not for you to know judgment?

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

3 Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.

4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

6 Therefore night *shall be* unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

7 Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for *there is* no answer of God.

8 But truly I am full of <sup>e</sup>power by the <sup>f</sup>spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

9 Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.

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

11 The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, *Is* not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

12 <sup>g</sup>Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

a Jer.8.3.

b Amos 5.13; Eph.5 16.

c *Holy Spirit.* Mic.3.8. (Gen.1.2; Mal.2.15.)d *Remnant.* vs.12,13; Mic.4.1-7. (Isa.1.9; Rom.11.5.)e *Inspiration.* Hab.2.2. (Ex.4.15; Rev.22.19.)f *Holy Spirit.* Zech.4.6. (Gen.1.2; Mal.2.15.)

g Prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem, fulfilled A.D. 70. Cf.Dan. 9.26.

## CHAPTER 4.

(2) *The future kingdom of Mes-siah: (a) the kingdom to be supreme.*

**B**UT in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the <sup>1</sup>mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the <sup>a</sup>top of the mountains, and <sup>b</sup>it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

(b) *The kingdom to be universal.*

2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

(c) *The kingdom to be peaceful.*

3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(d) *The kingdom to secure universal prosperity.*

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*.

5 For <sup>c</sup>all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

(e) *Israel to be regathered.*

6 In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that hatheth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and <sup>d</sup>the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

8 And thou, O tower of the flock,

B.C. 710.

the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

(f) *The intervening Babylonian captivity.*

9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? *is there* no king in thee? *is thy counsellor perished?* for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

10 Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go *even* to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall <sup>e</sup>redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.

(g) *How the kingdom is set up: the gathering of the Gentile nations against Jerusalem, and battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16. 14; 19. 17, note).*

11 Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.

12 But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.

13 <sup>f</sup>Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.

## CHAPTER 5.

*Parenthesis: the birth and re-jection of the King. (Cf. Mt. 2. 1-6; 27. 24, 25, 37.)*

<sup>2</sup>**N**OW gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall <sup>g</sup>smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephra-tah, *though* thou be little among

a Kingdom (O.T.) vs. 1-3; Mic.5.2. (Gen.1.26; Zech.12.8.)

b Remnant. vs.1-7; Mic. 5.3-9. (Isa. 1.9; Rom.11. 5.)

c Lit. all the peoples do now walk in the name of their god, but shall walk in the name of Jehovah our Elohim for ever.

d Christ (Second Advent). Zech.2.10-12. (Deut. 30.3; Acts 1.9-11.)

e Heb. goel, Redemp. (Kinsman type). Isa.59.20, note.

f Zech.12.1-8; 14.14.

g Cf.Mt.26. 67; 27.30.

<sup>1</sup> General predictions concerning the kingdom. In Scripture a mountain is the symbol of a great earth power (Dan. 2. 35); hills, of smaller powers. The prediction asserts (1) the ultimate establishment of the kingdom, with Jerusalem for the capital (v. 1); (2) the universality of the future kingdom (v. 2); (3) its character—peace (v. 3); (4) its effect—prosperity (v. 4). Cf. Isa. 2. 1-5; 11. 1-12.

<sup>2</sup> The "word of the LORD that came to Micah" (Mic. 1. 1), having described the future kingdom (Mic. 4. 1-8), and glanced at the Babylonian captivities (Mic. 4. 9-10), goes forward into the last days to refer to the great battle (see "Armaged-

the thousands of Judah, *yet* <sup>a</sup>out of <sup>b</sup>thee shall he come forth unto me *that is to be* <sup>c</sup>ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from <sup>1</sup>everlasting.

*Interval between the rejection and return of the King. End of parenthesis.*

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time *that* she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the <sup>d</sup>remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

*In the kingdom-age.*

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now <sup>e</sup>shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

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

6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the <sup>f</sup>land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

7 And the <sup>g</sup>remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people <sup>h</sup>as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.

B.C. 710.

*a* Mt.2.5-12; Lk.2.4,11; John 7.42.

*b* *Christ* (First Advent). Hag.2.7. (Gen.3.15; Acts 1.9.)

*c* *Kingdom* (O.T.). Zeph.3.13-20. (Gen.1.26; Zech.12.8.)

*d* *Remnant*. vs.3-9; Mic.7.18. (Isa.1.9; Rom.11.5.)

*e* Psa.72.8; Isa.52.13; Zech.9.10; Lk.1.32.

*f* Gen.10.8, 10.11.

*g* Deut.32.2; Psa.72.6; 110.3.

*h* Zech.9.10.

*i* Deut.16.21.

*j* i.e. nations.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

9 Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

10 <sup>h</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots:

11 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds:

12 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no *more* soothsayers:

13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

14 And I will pluck up thy <sup>i</sup>groves out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities.

15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the <sup>j</sup>heathen, such as they have not heard.

## CHAPTER 6.

*Part III.* (Mic. 6. 1-7. 20.) (1) *The LORD'S past and present controversy with Israel.*

**H**EAR ye now what the LORD saith; Arise, contend thou be-

don," Rev. 16. 14; 19. 17, *note*), which immediately precedes the setting up of the Messianic kingdom (see "Kingdom (O.T.)," Gen. 1. 26; Zech. 12. 8, *note*; also, "Kingdom (N.T.)," Lk. 1. 31-33; 1 Cor. 15. 28).

Mic. 5. 1, 2 forms a parenthesis in which the "word of the LORD" goes back from the time of the great battle (yet future) to the birth and rejection of the King, Messiah-Christ (Mt. 27. 24, 25, 37). This is followed by the statement that He will "give them up until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth" (v. 3). There is a twofold "travail" of Israel: (1) that which brings forth the "man child" (Christ) (Rev. 12. 1-3, *note*); and (2) that which, in the last days, brings forth a believing "remnant" out of the still dispersed and unbelieving nation (v. 3; Jer. 30. 6-14; Mic. 4. 10). Both aspects are combined in Isa. 66. In verse 7 we have the "man child" (Christ) of Rev. 12. 1-3; in verses 8-24 the remnant, established in kingdom blessing. The meaning of Mic. 5. 3 is that, from the rejection of Christ at His first coming Jehovah will give Israel up till the believing remnant appears; *then* He stands and feeds in His proper strength as Jehovah (v. 4); He is the defence of His people as in Mic. 4. 3, 11-13, and afterward the remnant go as missionaries to Israel and to all the world (vs. 7, 8; Zech. 8. 23).

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Isa. 7. 13, 14; 9. 6, 7. The "child" was born in Bethlehem, but the "Son" was "from everlasting."

<sup>2</sup> The ministry of the Jewish remnant (Isa. 1. 9; Rom. 11. 5, *note*) has a twofold aspect, "a dew from the LORD"; "a lion among the beasts." Turning to the Lord in the great tribulation (Psa. 2. 5; Rev. 7. 14, *note*), the remnant takes up the beautiful gospel of the kingdom (Rev. 14. 6, *note*) and proclaims it under awful

fore the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

3 O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what <sup>b</sup>Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.

6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but <sup>d</sup>to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

9 The LORD's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.

10 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

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

12 For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

13 Therefore also will I make

B.C. 710.

<sup>a</sup> Ex.14.30, note; Isa.59.20, note.

<sup>b</sup> Num.23.7-10,18-24; 24.3-9,15-24.

<sup>c</sup> Deut.10.12; 1 Sam.15.22; Hos.6.6; 12.6.

<sup>d</sup> Gen.18.19; Isa.1.17.

<sup>e</sup> Deut.28.38-40; Amos 5.11; Zeph.1.13; Hag.1.6.

<sup>f</sup> 1 Ki.16.25,26.

<sup>g</sup> 1 Ki.16.30; 21.25,26; 2 Ki.21.3.

<sup>h</sup> Psa.2.12, note.

thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

14 Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.

15 Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.

16 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people.

## CHAPTER 7.

WOE is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grapegleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

2 The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

4 The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

persecution "unto all nations, for a witness" (Mt. 24. 14). The result is seen in Rev. 7. 4-14. This is the "dew" aspect, and is followed by the "day of the LORD" (Isa. 2. 10-22; Rev. 19. 11-21), in the morning of which the kingdom is set up in power. Again there is a world-wide preaching to Jew and Gentile, but now it is the word that the King is on His holy hill of Zion (Psa. 2.), and the unrepentant will be broken with His rod of iron (Psa. 2. 6-9). The preaching is given in Psa. 2. 10-12. This is the "lion" aspect of the remnant's testimony (Rev. 2. 26-28). The full kingdom-age of blessing follows the "rod of iron" aspect.

(2) *The voice of the remnant in the last days.*

7 <sup>1</sup>Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold <sup>a</sup>his righteousness.

10 Then *she that is mine enemy* shall see *it*, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

11 *In* the day that thy <sup>b</sup>walls are to be built, *in* that day shall the decree be far removed.

12 *In* that day *also* he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and *from* the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and *from* mountain to mountain.

13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that

B.C. 710.

dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily *in* the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed *in* Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

15 <sup>c</sup>According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous *things*.

16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay *their* hand upon *their* mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

17 They shall <sup>d</sup>lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: <sup>e</sup>they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.

18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the <sup>f</sup>remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.

19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

<sup>a</sup> Rom.10.1-4; 11.23-27.<sup>b</sup> Amos 9.11.<sup>c</sup> Psa.78.12.<sup>d</sup> Psa.72.9; Isa.49.23.<sup>e</sup> Jer.33.9.<sup>f</sup> Remnant. Zeph.2.1-3, 7-9. (Isa. 1.9; Rom. 11.5.)

<sup>1</sup> Mic. 7. 7-20 is, primarily, the confession and intercession of the prophet, who identifies himself with Israel. Cf. Dan. 9. 3-19. Intercession was a test of the prophetic office (Jer. 27. 18; Gen. 20. 7). But Micah's prayer voices also the heart exercise of the remnant in the last days. Such is prophecy, an intermingling of the near and the far. (Cf. Psa. 22. 1; Mt. 27. 46.)