



unfoldingWord® Literal Text

v90

Micah

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Micah

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

2 Hear, peoples, all of them;
pay attention, earth, and its fullness,
that the Lord Yahweh may be against you as a witness,
the Lord from the palace of his holiness.

3 For behold, Yahweh is going out from his place,
and he will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

4 And the mountains will melt under him,
and the valleys will split open,
like wax from the face of the fire,
like waters poured down a steep place.

5 All this **is** because of the transgression of Jacob,
and because of the sins of the house of Israel.

Who **is** the transgression of Jacob?

Is it not Samaria?

And who **are** the high places of Judah?

Is it not Jerusalem?

6 "So I will make Samaria a ruin of the field,
a planting place of a vineyard.

And I will pour down her stones into the gorge,

and her foundations I will uncover.

7 And all her carved images will be crushed,
and all her wages will be burned in the fire,
and all her idols I will make a desolation,

for from the wages of a prostitute she gathered **them**,

and to the wages of a prostitute they will return."

8 On account of this I shall lament and wail;
I shall go barefoot and naked.

I shall make a lamentation like the jackals

and mourning like the daughters of an owl.

9 For her wounds **are** incurable,

for it has come to Judah.

It has reached to the gate of my people,
to Jerusalem.

10 In Gath, do not declare **it**;
weeping, do not weep.

In Beth Leaphrah,
roll yourself in the dust.

11 Pass on your way, dweller of Shaphir,

in nakedness of shame.

The dweller of Zaanan has not gone out;

the mourning of Beth Ezel will take from you its standing place.

12 Surely the dweller of Maroth writhes for **something** good,

but evil has come down from Yahweh

to the gate of Jerusalem.

13 Harness the chariot to the steeds,

dweller of Lachish.

She **was** the beginning of sin to
daughter Zion,
for in you were found the
transgressions of Israel.

14 Therefore you will give
dowry gifts
to Moresheth Gath.

The houses of Achzib **will**
become a deception
to the kings of Israel.

15 Also a possessor I will bring
to you,
dweller of Mareshah.

The glory of Israel
will come to Adullam.

16 Make yourself bald and
shave
for the sons of your delight.
Enlarge your baldness like the
eagle,
for they have gone into exile
from you.

2 ¹ Woe to the devisers of
iniquity
and the workers of evil on
their beds!

In the light of the morning they
do it,
for it is in the power of their
hand.

2 And they covet fields and
seize **them**,
and houses, and take **them**
away.

And they oppress a man and his
house,
and a man and his
inheritance.

3 Therefore, thus says Yahweh,
"Behold me, devising against
this clan disaster, which you
will not remove your necks
from there, and you will not
walk haughtily, for it **is** an evil
time. ⁴ In that day **someone** will
lift up against you a proverb,
and lament a lamentation of a
lamentation. He says,

'Destroying, we are destroyed!
The portion of my people he
exchanges! How he removes **it**
from me! To a rebel he divides
our fields!'" ⁵ Therefore there
will not be for you one casting a
measuring line by lot
in the assembly of Yahweh.

6 "Do not drip," they drip.
They do not drip about these
things;
disgraces will not depart.

7 Should it be said, house of
Jacob,
"Is the Spirit of Yahweh
short?"

Or "Are these his deeds?"
Do not my words do good
with the one walking
uprightly?

8 "But recently my people rise
up as an enemy.
You strip the splendor from
the front of the garment,
from those passing by in
security,
those returning from war.

9 The women of my people you
drive out
from the house of her
delights;
from upon her infants you take
away
my splendor forever.

10 Rise up and go!
For this **is** not the resting
place;
because of uncleanness it will
destroy,
and a grievous destruction."

11 If a man walking **in** wind
and falsehood lied,
"I will drip to you of wine
and of beer,"
he would be the dripper of
this people.

12 "Gathering, I will gather
Jacob, all of you.

Assembling, I will assemble
the remnant of Israel.

Together I will set them like
sheep of Bozrah,
like a flock in the midst of its
pasture;
they will be noisy from
humanity.

13 The breaker has gone up to
the face of them.
They have broken through
and passed through the gate
and gone out through it.
And their king has passed on to
the face of them,
and Yahweh **is** at their
head."

3 ¹ And I said,
"Hear, please, heads of Jacob
and commanders of the
house of Israel:

Is it not for you to know justice?

² Haters of good and lovers of
evil,
tearing their skin from upon
them
and their flesh from upon
their bones,

³ and who have eaten the flesh
of my people,
and their skin from upon
them they have stripped,
and their bones they have
broken,
and they have chopped **them**
up as **what** is in the pot,
and as flesh inside a
cauldron."

⁴ Then they will cry out to
Yahweh,
but he will not answer them.
And he will hide his face from
them at that time,
just as they have made their
deeds evil.

⁵ Thus says Yahweh,
"Concerning the prophets

causing my people to
wander astray,

biting with their teeth, then
they call out, 'Peace!'

But whoever does not put
something in their mouths,
they consecrate war against
him.

⁶ Therefore, **it will be** night for
you without vision,
and it will be dark for you
without divining.

And the sun will go down on the
prophets,
and the day will become
dark over them."

⁷ And the seers will be
ashamed,
and the diviners will be
disgraced.

And all of them will cover over
the mustache,
for there is no answer of
God.

⁸ But I, in contrast, I am full of
power,
the Spirit of Yahweh, and
justice, and might,
to declare to Jacob his
transgression,
and to Israel his sin.

⁹ Hear this, please,
heads of the house of Jacob
and commanders of the
house of Israel,
the ones abhorring justice
and making all of the
straight **things** crooked,

¹⁰ building Zion with
bloodshed
and Jerusalem with injustice.

¹¹ Her heads judge for a bribe,
and her priests teach for a
price,
and her prophets divine for
silver.

Yet they lean on Yahweh,
saying,

"Is not Yahweh in our midst?
Evil will not come upon us."

12 Therefore, because of you,
Zion will be plowed **as** a
field,
and Jerusalem will become
heaps,
and the mountain of the
house, as high places of a
forest.

4 **1** But it will be in the last
of the days,
the mountain of the house of
Yahweh
will be established as the
head of the mountains.
And it will be lifted above the
hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
2 Many nations will go and say,
"Come and let us go up to the
mountain of Yahweh,
and to the house of the God
of Jacob,
so that he will teach us from his
ways,
and so that we may walk in
his paths."
For from Zion the law will go
out,
and the word of Yahweh
from Jerusalem.

3 And he will judge among
many peoples
and will decide for strong
nations far away.
And they will beat their swords
into plowshares
and their spears into
pruning hooks.
Nation will not lift up sword
against nation,
and they will not train for
war any more.

4 And they will sit, each person
under his vine
and under his fig tree.

And there will be no terrorizer,
for the mouth of Yahweh of
Armies has spoken.

5 For all the peoples walk,
each one, in the name of his
god.

But we, we will walk in the
name of Yahweh our God
forever and ever.

6 "On that day," declares
Yahweh,
"I shall assemble the lame
and gather the outcast,
and those whom I have
afflicted.

7 And I will turn the lame into a
remnant,
and the ones driven away
into a strong nation,
and Yahweh will reign over
them on Mount Zion,
from now and until forever.

8 And you, watchtower for the
flock,
hill of daughter Zion—
to you it will arrive, and the
former dominion will come,
the kingdom **belonging** to
daughter Jerusalem.

9 Now, why do you shout a
shout?
Is there no king among you,
or has your counselor
perished,

that pain grips you like a
woman giving birth?

10 Writhe in pain and burst
forth, daughter Zion, like a
woman giving birth.
For now you will go out of
the city,
and live in the field,
and go to Babylon.

There you will be rescued.
There Yahweh will redeem
you from the hand of your
enemies.

11 But now many nations are
assembled against you,

those saying, 'Let her be
defiled
and let our eyes gaze on
Zion.'

12 But they, they do not know
the thoughts of Yahweh
and they do not understand
his plan,

for he has gathered them
like bundles of grain for the
threshing floor.

13 Arise and thresh, daughter
Zion,
for I will make your horn
iron,
and I will make your hooves
bronze.

So break into pieces many
peoples and devote to Yahweh
their plunder

and their wealth to the Lord
of all of the earth."

5 ¹ Now gather yourself as a
troop, daughter troop!

He has set a siege against
us;
with the rod they strike on the
cheek
the judge of Israel.

2 But you, Bethlehem
Ephrathah,
small to be among the clans
of Judah,

from you will come out for me

one to be a ruler in Israel,
and his goings out **are** from
aforetime,

from the days of eternity.

3 Therefore he will give them
up

until the time **when** the
bearing **one** gives birth,
and the remainder of his
brothers

will return to the sons of
Israel.

4 And he will stand and
shepherd in the strength of
Yahweh,
in the majesty of the name of
Yahweh his God.

And they will dwell, for now he
will be great
to the ends of the earth.

5 And this one will be peace.
Assyria—when he comes into
our land,
and when he treads on our
citadels,

then we will raise up against
him seven shepherds
and eight princes of man.

6 And they will shepherd the
land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod in its
entrances.

And he will deliver **us** from
Assyria,

when he comes into our
land,
and when he treads within
our border.

7 And the remnant of Jacob will
be

in the midst of many
peoples,
like dew from Yahweh,
like showers on the grass,
that does not wait for a man
and does not hope for the
sons of man.

8 And the remnant of Jacob will
be among the nations,
in the midst of many
peoples,

like a lion among the animals of
the forest,

like a young lion among the
flocks of sheep,
who, if he passes through,
both tramples and tears,
and there is no deliverer.

9 May your hand rise over your adversaries,

and may all of your enemies
be cut off!

10 And it will be on that day—
the declaration of Yahweh—
that I will cut off your horses
from your midst,
and I will destroy your
chariots.

11 And I will cut off the cities of
your land,
and I will tear down all of
your fortifications.

12 And I will cut off sorceries
from your hand,
and soothsayers will not be
to you.

13 And I will cut off your
carved images
and your stone pillars from
your midst,
and you will no longer bow
down
to the work of your hands.

14 And I will uproot your
Asherah s from your midst,
and I will destroy your cities.

15 And I will execute in nose
and in wrath vengeance on the
nations that have not listened.

6 ¹ Hear, please, what
Yahweh is saying,
“Arise, contend before the
mountains,
and let the hills hear your
voice.”

2 Hear the dispute of Yahweh,
mountains,
and permanent foundations
of the earth,
for a dispute **is** to Yahweh with
his people,
and with Israel he will
argue, **3** “My people, what
have I done to you,

and how have I wearied you?
Testify against me!

4 For I brought you up from the
land of Egypt,
and from the house of slaves
I redeemed you,
and I sent to your face
Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 My people, please remember
what Balak, king of Moab,
counseled,
and what Balaam, son of
Beor, answered him,
from Shittim to Gilgal,
in order to know the
righteousnesses of Yahweh.”

6 With what shall I come before
Yahweh,
bow down to the God of the
height?

Shall I come before him with
burnt offerings,

with calves, sons of a year?

7 Will Yahweh be pleased with
thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers
of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn **for** my
transgression,
the fruit of my belly **for** the
sin of my soul?

8 He has told you, man, what **is**
good,

and what Yahweh is seeking
from you:

only to do justice,

and the love of covenant
faithfulness,

and to be humble to walk
with your God.

9 The voice of Yahweh calls to
the city

—(and sound wisdom fears
your name),

Hear, tribe and whoever he
appointed!

10 “Are there still **in** the house
of the wicked

treasuries of wickedness,
and the ephah of leanness
that is cursed?

11 Would I be innocent with
scales of wickedness,
and with a bag of stones of
deceit?

12 —which her rich are full of
violence,
and her inhabitants speak
falsehood,
and their tongue **is** deceit in
their mouth.

13 And even I, I will make sick
the striking of you,
devastating **you** because of
your sins.

14 You, you will eat but not be
satisfied,
for dysentery **will be** inside
you.

And you will bring to safety but
not deliver,
and what you do deliver, I
will give to the sword.

15 You, you will sow but not
reap;
you, you will tread the olive
but not anoint **yourself with**
oil;
and—new wine but not drink
wine.

16 For the statutes of Omri are
kept,
and all of the deeds of the
house of Ahab;
and you have walked in their
counsels,
so that I will make you a
desolation,
and her inhabitants a
hissing,
and the reproach of my
people you will bear.”¹

7 ¹ Woe to me!

For I have become like the
gatherings of summer fruit,
like the gleanings of the
grape harvest.

There is no cluster to eat,
no early fig **that** my soul
desires.

2 The faithful one has perished
from the land,
and there is no upright one
among mankind.

All of them lie in wait for
bloodshed;
each man hunts his brother
with a net.

3 Concerning evil, the two
hands **act** to do **it** well;
the ruler is asking,
and the judge, for the
recompense,
and the great one is speaking
the desire of his very soul;
and they weave it together.

4 The best of them **is** like a
brier;
the upright, **worse** than a
thorn hedge.

The day of your watchers, your
visitation, has come.
Now their confusion will be.

5 Do not believe in a neighbor;
Do not trust in a friend.

From the one lying in your
bosom,
guard the doors of your
mouth.

6 For a son is dishonoring a
father;
a daughter is rising against
her mother;
a daughter-in-law against
her mother-in-law.

The enemies of a man
are the men of his house.

7 But I, I will watch for
 Yahweh;
 I shall wait for the God of my
 salvation.
 My God will hear me.
8 Do not rejoice over me, my
 enemy!
 Though I have fallen; I will
 arise.
 Though I sit in the darkness;
 Yahweh **is** a light to me.
9 I will bear the rage of
 Yahweh,
 for I have sinned against
 him,
 until he pleads my case
 and accomplishes my justice.
 He will bring me out to the
 light;
 I will look on his
 righteousness.
10 Then may my enemy see,
 so that shame covers her,
 the one saying to me,
 “Where **is** Yahweh your
 God?”
 My eyes will look at her;
 now she will become a
 trampling place
 like the mud of the streets.
11 A day to build your walls!
 That day the boundary will
 be far away.
12 That **is** the day when as far
 as you he will come,
 from Assyria and the cities of
 Egypt,
 and from Egypt and as far as
 the River,
 and **to** sea from sea,
 and mountain **to** the
 mountain.

13 And the land will become a
 desolation
 on account of her
 inhabitants,
 from the fruit of their deeds.
14 Shepherd your people with
 your rod,
 the flock of your inheritance,
 the one dwelling alone,
 a forest in the midst of
 Carmel.
 May they graze in Bashan and
 Gilead
 as in the days of old.
15 As in the days of your going
 out from the land of Egypt,
 I will make him see wonders.
16 The nations will see
 and will be ashamed of all of
 their might.
 They will put a hand over
 mouth;
 their ears will be deaf.
17 They will lick dust like the
 serpent;
 like crawling things of the
 earth,
 they will tremble from their
 strongholds.
 They will approach in dread
 Yahweh our God,
 and they will fear because of
 you.
18 Who is a God like you,
 bearing iniquity and passing
 over transgression
 for the remnant of his
 inheritance?
 He does not hold his nose
 forever,
 for he delights in covenant
 faithfulness, he **does**.
19 He will return; he will have
 compassion on us.

1. The Hebrew text has *you will bear the reproach of my people*, but an ancient Greek version has *you will bear the scorn of the nations*. Some modern versions follow this reading.

He will subdue our
iniquities,
and you will throw into the
depths of the sea
all of their sins.

20 You will grant
trustworthiness to Jacob,
covenant faithfulness to
Abraham,
which you swore to our fathers
from the days of old.