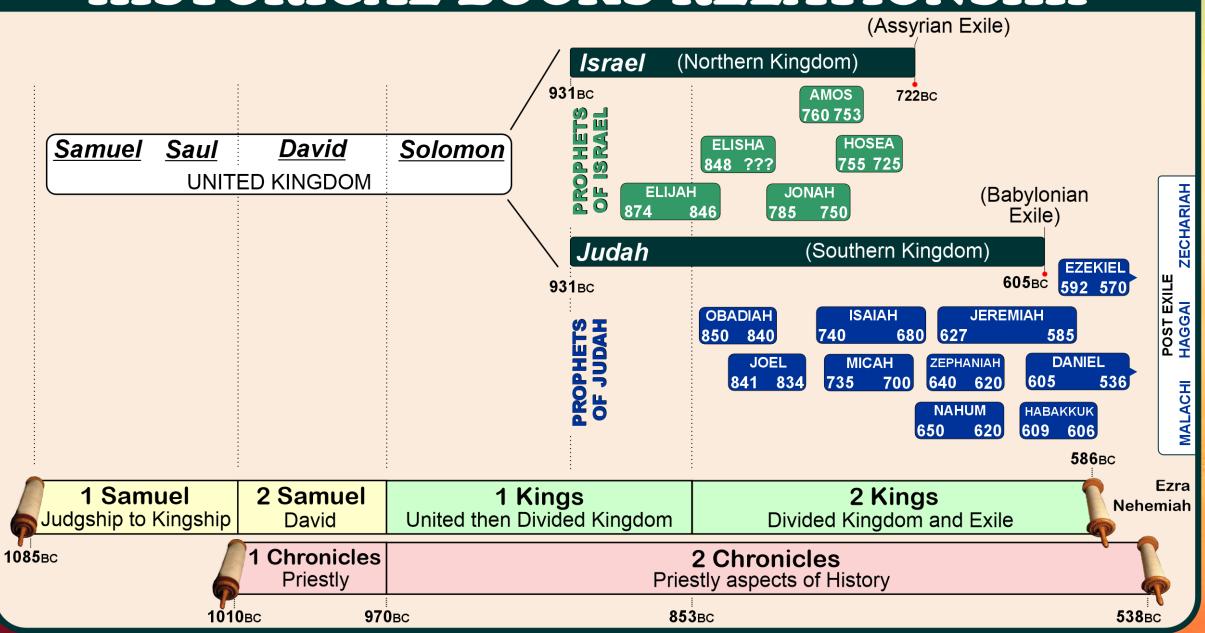
JUDGMENT, BIESSING, ANDHOPE

Tom Elseroad • 2024-02-14 • Micah-slides.cdr

HISTORICAL BOOKS RELATIONSHIP





BOOK OF MICAH



CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTERS 3-5	CHAPTERS 6-7		
Hear, all you peoples! (1:2)	Hear now, O heads of Jacob (3:1)	Hear now O mountains (6:1)		
FIRST MESSAGE	SECOND MESSAGE	THIRD MESSAGE		
Israel's Impending Judgment —— & —— Future Restoration	Guilt of Israel's Leaders —— & —— Her Future Hope	God's Case Against Israel —— & —— Ultimate Triumph of His Kingdom		
A true relationship with Cod is naturally linked to how we treat one another Misch				

A true relationship with God is naturally linked to how we treat one another. Micah THEME: contrasts Judah's kingdom with God's righteous and just messianic kingdom.

KEY

• "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" (Mh.6:8)

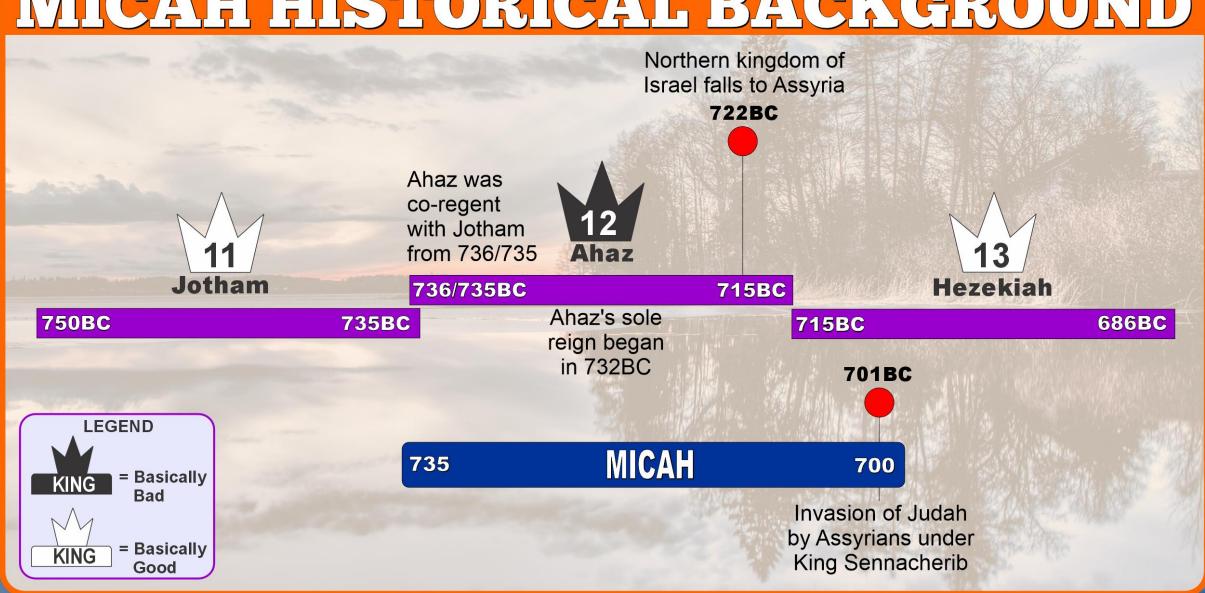
VERSE: • "Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy." (Mh.7:18)

CHRIST • Micah predicted Messiah's birthplace, lineage, origin (5:2), and future reign (4:1-7; 5:4). IN MICAH: • He is called Israel's King (2:13) and Ruler who is eternal.

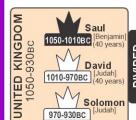
MICAH INTRODUCTION

- Micah wrote during years of economic affluence and overall peace.
- Micah witnessed the fall of the Northern kingdom of Israel to Assyria in 722BC.
- Micah lived through the invasion of Judah also by the Assyrians under King Sennacherib in 701BC.
- O Micah was a champion of civil rights. He went after social injustices that marked the ruling class (2:1,8-9; 3:11; 6:11).

MICAH HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



KINGS OF JUDAH



(Southern Kingdom) 930-605BC JUDAH

Fall of Jerusalem into Babylonian Captivity

ALL ARE FROM THE SAME DYNASTY SINCE THEY ARE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

(Souther



















Abijam (Abjiah) Jehoshaphat

Ahaziah

Joash

Uzziah (Azariah)

Ahaz

Manasseh

Josiah

Jehoiakim (Eliakim)

Zedekiah (Mattaniah)











(queen)













Rehoboam

Asa

848-841BC

Jehoram Athaliah

796-767вс

Amaziah

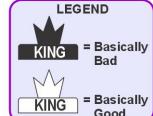
Jotham

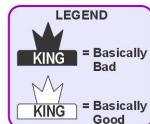
Hezekiah

Amon

Jehoahaz

Jehoiachin (Coniah) (Jeconiah)









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.





"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." (Mi.1:1)

- Micah ministered as a prophet some time between the years 739 B.C. (the start of the reign of Jotham) and 700 B.C. (during the reign of Hezekiah).
- The city of Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, and Jerusalem was the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah.
- O Since Hezekiah was a noted reformer, many surmise that the sin Micah confronted mainly concerns the time before the important reforms of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20).



Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple.







"Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple." (Mi.1:2)



Micah delivered three messages starting with "hear" (1:2; 3:1; 6:1).

The prophet summons all the nations of the world into court to hear charges against Samaria and Judah.

The "holy temple" in this context points to God's heavenly throne (Ps.11:4; Is.6:1).



For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth.







"For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth."

(Mi.1:3)



- With vivid images, Micah sees the LORD descending from heaven to earth, and coming with judgment.
- As an omnipotent conqueror, the sovereign Lord over all creation is assured of victory.
- The "high places" likely refers to the pagan places of worship.

The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.







- O If the mountains and valleys cannot stand before Him, what hope does sinful, rebellious man have?
- When the mountains and valleys "melt" like wax the people were gripped by the terrifying reality that they were to answer to the Judge of all the earth.
- Micah indicates that God can do as he wills with kingdoms of men.

All this 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 are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?







- It is easy to imagine that the people of Judah and Israel thought this was unfair.
- They looked around at the pagan nations surrounding them and saw that they were even more corrupt than themselves.



For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1Pe.4:17)



- The two capitals of Israel and Judah, here representative of their respective nations.
- O Although the 12 tribes of Israel had been united under David and Solomon, after Solomon's death, the kingdom had divided into two parts.
- Two of the tribes, Judah and Benjamin, stayed loyal to David's line and accepted Solomon's son as their king.



"Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations.







""Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations." (Mi.1:6)



- Micah prophesies the coming judgment on Samaria, the capital city of Israel.
- This was fulfilled in 722 B.C. when Samaria fell to the Assyrians and was completely destroyed.
- The destruction of Samaria was literally fulfilled during Micah's lifetime, in 722 B.C. just as he had predicted (2Ki.17:1-18).

All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."

"All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."" (Mi.1:7)

- Micah combines the ideas of idolatry and spiritual adultery.
- Money spent on idols and their worship will be brought to nothing when the mighty army of the Assyrians destroys Samaria.
- Golden images, of such monetary value yet so spiritually and politically worthless, were constructed from the wages of cult prostitutes.

"All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."" (Mi.1:7)

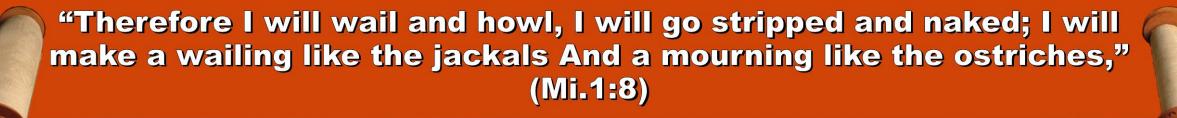
- The conquerors will break them up and use the money to repeat the same cycle. The depraved heart of man worships gods like that.
- Centers of idolatry were financed primarily through payments of money, food, and clothing to cultic prostitutes, who were strictly forbidden in Israel (Du.23:17-18).
- O Precious gold and silver, taken from Israel's temples, was used by the Assyrian invaders for their own idol worship.



Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches,







- Micah can't prophesy in a dispassionate, detached way.
- When he sees judgment coming upon his people, it makes him wail and howl like the jackals.
- Micah didn't just announce judgment and then yawn. He cared so deeply that he wept with God's people.
- Those who may reject a Christian's logic may be won by his tears?

For her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people— To Jerusalem.





"For her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people— To Jerusalem." (Mi.1:9)

- Some see "Gate of My people" to refer to the attempted Assyrian attack on Judah in 701BC (2Ki.18:13-27).
- O But the reference to the wounds as "incurable" seems best as referring to the Babylonian captivity in 605BC.
- O Jeremiah refers to the Babylonian captivity in 7:16.



Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. (**Je.7:16**)



Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust.





"Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust." (Mi.1:10)

- The city of Gath belonged to the Philistines, and it hurts Micah to think that the Philistines will rejoice at the pain of God's people.
- "Tell it not in Gath" reminds us of David's dirge at Saul's death (2Sm.1:20).



Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon— Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. (2Sm.1:20)

Micah, because of the location of his upbringing, knew how they would react.

"Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust." (Mi.1:10)

- Micah uses puns and play on words to talk about the judgment coming upon the cities of Judah.
- These towns are clustered in the Shephelah the lowlands between the coastal region and the mountains of Judah.
- A name isn't just your "handle" but describes, sometimes prophetically, your character and your destiny.
- O In showing how the name of these cities is in some way a prophecy of their destiny, Micah shows how our character becomes our future.



MICAH TOWN NAMES CLEVER WORDPLAY (Micah 1:10-15)

1	Beth Aphrah	→® "House of dust"	v.10
2	Shaphir	⊸୭ "Beautiful"	v.11
3	Zaanan	-√9 "Come out"	v.11
4	Beth Ezel	"Nearby city"	v.11
5	Maroth	"Bitterness"	v.12
6	Lachish	₩ "To the horses"	v.13
7	Moresheth	→® "Betrothed"	v.14
8	Achzib	₩9 "Deceitful"	v.14
9	Mareshah	"Possessor"	v.15

Adullam

Refuge for David v.15

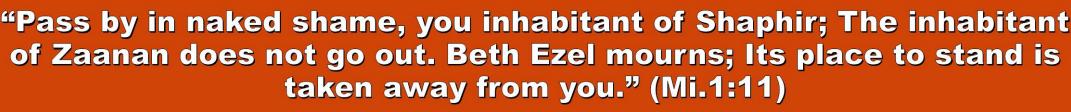
MICAH TOWN NAMES CLEVER WORDPLAY (Micah 1:10-15)

1	Beth Aphrah	→ "House of dust"	v.10	Sounds like the Hebrew word for 'dust' so he told the citizens to roll in the dust in anticipation of coming judgment.
2	Shaphir	₩9 "Beautiful"	v.11	Sounds like the word for 'beautiful.' It will not be beautiful for long. Prepare for shame.
3	Zaanan	₩9 "Come out"	v.11	Sounds like the Hebrew word for 'exit' or 'go out.' When the siege armies come they will not be able to exit.
4	Beth Ezel	"Nearby city"	v.11	Means the 'nearby city.' When judgment comes it won't be near and helpful to any other city.
5	Maroth	"Bitterness"	v.12	Means 'bitterness.' When the army of judgment comes the people will know plenty of bitterness.
6	Lachish	"To the horses"	v.13	Lachish in Hebrew sounds like the word for 'to the horses.' Lachish was an important fortress city, and they should go to the horses to fight. Instead they will go to the horses to flee the army of judgment.
7	Moresheth	₩9 "Betrothed"	v.14	Sounds like the Hebrew word for 'betrothed.' Micah speaks of giving the city wedding gifts as she passes from the rule of one "husband" (Judah) to another (the invading army).
8	Achzib	₩9 "Deceitful"	v.14	Sounds like the Hebrew word for 'deceitful' or 'disappointing.' The city will fall so quickly it will be a deception and a disappointment for Israel.
9	Mareshah	"Possessor"	v.15	Mareshah The name of this town is related to the Hebrew word for 'possessor' or 'heir.' The invading army will soon possess this city.
10	Adullam	Refuge for David	v.15	Adullam was the place of refuge for David when he fled from King Saul. It will again be a place of refuge for the high and mighty among Israel, when they are forced to hide

Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir; The inhabitant of Zaanan does not go out. Beth Ezel mourns; Its place to stand is taken away from you.









"Shaphir" literally means "beautiful."

- Zaanan sounds like the Hebrew word for 'exit' or 'go out.'
 When the siege armies come they will not be able to exit.
- Beth Ezel means the 'nearby city.' When judgment comes it won't be near and helpful to any other city.



For the inhabitant of Maroth pined for good, But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.







- Maroth means 'bitterness.' When the army of judgment comes the people will know plenty of bitterness.
- O "Disaster came down" points to the Lord as the source of judgment ("high places", 1:3).
- Micah predicts that Maroth was another city that was to be disappointed of its expectations.

O inhabitant of Lachish, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds (She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), For the transgressions of Israel were found in you.





"O inhabitant of Lachish, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds (She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), For the transgressions of Israel were found in you." (Mi.1:13)

- Lachish in Hebrew sounds like the word for 'to the horses.' Lachish was an important fortress city, and they should go to the horses to fight. Instead they will go to the horses to flee the army of judgment.
- Control Lachish was a key military fortress whose "sin" was dependence on military might.
- The people of Lachish had influenced many to follow their evil example. They led Jerusalem into "sin."

Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.







"Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel." (Mi.1:14)

Moresheth (Micah's hometown) sounds like the Hebrew word for 'betrothed.' Micah speaks of giving the city wedding gifts as she passes from the rule of one "husband" (Judah) to another (the invading army).

O The prediction means that when the test comes <u>Achzib</u> (sounds like disappoint) will disappoint the kings and will prove to be traitors.

I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.





"I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam." (Mi.1:15)

- Mareshah: The name of this town is related to the Hebrew word for 'possessor' or 'heir.' The invading army will soon possess this city.
- O An "heir" means one who will become the possessor of the place and that was to be the Assyrians.
- Adullam was the place of refuge for David when he fled from King Saul (2Sm.23:13). It will again be a place of refuge for the high and mighty among Israel, when they are forced to hide.

Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of your precious children; Enlarge your baldness like an eagle, For they shall go from you into captivity.







- Priests were forbidden to make themselves bald (Lv.21:5), nor were the people to imitate the heathen practice of doing so (Du.14:1).
- O Here it would be acceptable as a sign of deep mourning (Ez.9:3; Jb.1:20; Is.22:12; Ek.7:18).
- This happened in both Israel and Judah, most horribly when each nation was completely conquered—Israel in 722 B.C. and Judah in 586 B.C.



Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.







"Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand." (Mi.2:1)



- O All sin is bad before God, but premeditated sin is worse.
- Micah speaks plainly to those who devise iniquity. Here he refers to those who oppress others through their greed and covetousness.
- O Typically thieves practice their work at night, under the cover of darkness. Law courts opened for business "at morning light." Micah sees the corruption of Israel's law courts who practice their evil in the open.

They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress and man and his house, A man and his inheritance.







"They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance." (Mi.2:2)



- Micah decried the corrupt practices of the affluent (2:1-5).
- The poor, unable to defend themselves, were at the mercy of the wealthy.
- Property ("his inheritance") in Israel was ultimately to be permanently owned (Lv.25:10, 13; Nu.36:1-12). At Jubilee the land was returned to the original owner.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

BIBLICAL LIST

- I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
- Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.
- **3** Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- **5** Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 6 Thou shalt not kill.
- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- **8** Thou shalt not steal.
- **9** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 10 Thou shalt not covet.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH LIST

I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

• The RCC split commandment number 10 into two commandments to make up the difference.

לא תרצח לא תנאף

לא תננכ

לא תענה

לא תחמד

לא יהוה

לא תשאאת

זכוד את יום

• The RCC dropped commandment number 2 about graven images.



Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time.







"Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time." (Mi.2:3)



The people devised iniquity; God devised disaster upon them.

O In His justice, He gave them what they gave others.

Micah rebukes the pride among God's people and announces that in the "evil time" to come they will be brought low and will no longer walk haughtily.

In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.'







"In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.'" (Mi.2:4)



- In the coming judgment on Israel by the conquering Assyrian Empire their land will be in possession of strangers ("divided our fields").
- As a result of sin, God would allow foreign invaders to divide their land.

None of them would have the inheritance apportioned to them.



Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.







"Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD." (Mi.2:5)



- As the rich took from the poor, so God would take back that which He gave as judgment on the nation.
- Those who have been oppressing others will find the tables turned.
- They will end up not having any share in the decisions to divide the land because they won't have any surviving relatives.



"Do not prattle," you say to those who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult.







- The people disregarded God's Word as mere prattle (meaningless babble).
- O During the reigns of Jotham and Ahaz nobody listened.
- Finally he prophesied during the reign of Hezekiah, and the leaders and the people repented (2Ki.18; 2Ch.29-30).
- Micah didn't give up, even though results were slow in coming. Micah preached for anywhere between 16 and 25 years before there was any response.

You who are named the house of Jacob: "Is the Spirit of the LORD restricted? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?







- O In their foolishness, the people of Israel thought that God was the problem ("restricted").
- The key to their preservation in the midst of judgment was to stick tightly to God's words.
- When they reject God's words, they are left poor and destitute materially and spiritually.
- God's words do reward the righteous, but they also rebuke those engaging in evil deeds.

"Lately My people have risen up as an enemy— You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war.







""Lately My people have risen up as an enemy— You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war." (Mi.2:8)



- False prophets had stopped the mouths of the true prophets and had permitted the rulers to engage in social atrocities (2:8-9).
- They didn't want true prophecies; therefore, they got what they wanted (Is.30:10).



Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. (Is.30:10)

The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.







"The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever." (Mi.2:9)

- "Women of My people" is likely a reference to widows.
- Their children become slaves and worse ("taken away My glory").
- O Their rightful inheritance as God's covenant people in the Promised Land was lost to greed and exploitation.
- "Forever" is a way of showing intensity, not time or duration.



"Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction.







""Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction." (Mi.2:10)

- Micah exposes the lies of false prophets showing that they can never really give "rest."
- The words of false prophets are defiled, and bring utter destruction instead of rest or peace.
- O "Defiled" is a term used of the abominations of the Canaanites. Micah applies it to the people of God. God removed the Canaanites, and now will remove the Israelites.

If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, 'I will prophesy to you of wine and drink Even he would be the prattler of this people.





"If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, 'I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,' Even he would be the prattler of this people." (Mi.2:11)

- With judgment looming on the horizon, especially for the northern kingdom of Israel, there were false prophets who spoke of days of wine and drink, giving false comfort.
- The true prophet was accused of childish babbling, when the real babblers were the false prophets.
- The only prophet they wanted was one to tell them there would be plenty of alcohol.
- The people accepted any "prophet" who would tailor his message to their greed and prosperity.



"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.



""I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people." (Mi.2:12)

- Though judgment was promised because of the great sin of God's people, they could not "out-sin" the grace and goodness of God.
- God still promises restoration to the remnant of Israel.
- The remnant will not be few. There will be "many people" brought back to the LORD and His ways.
- The "remnant of Israel" is a recurring theme in Micah (Mi.4:7; 5:7-8; 7:18).

The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head."







- The remnant will come to the Lord with Him "at their head."
- The King James Version has it as the "Breaker." This is another messianic title of Jesus - The Breaker.
- How we need a Breaker, a trailblazer in our life!
- Messiah will make ready the way, removing the obstacles which might hinder His remnant's deliverance and return at the second advent (Is.11:15-16; 52:12).

