

Micah

BEREAN STANDARD BIBLE

Chapter 1

JUDGMENT TO COME

¹This is the word of the LORD that came to Micah the Moreshite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—what he saw regarding Samaria and Jerusalem: ²Hear, O peoples, all of you; listen, O earth, and everyone in it! May the Lord GOD bear witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple. ³For behold, the LORD comes forth from His dwelling place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. ⁴The mountains will melt beneath Him, and the valleys will split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope. ⁵All this is for the transgression of Jacob and 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? ⁶Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble in the open field, a planting area for a vineyard. I will pour her stones into the valley and expose her foundations. ⁷All her carved images will be smashed to pieces; all her wages will be burned in the fire, and I will destroy all her idols. Since she collected the wages of a prostitute, they will be used again on a prostitute.

WEeping AND MOURNING

⁸Because of this I will lament and wail; I will walk barefoot and naked. I will howl like a jackal and mourn like an ostrich. ⁹For her wound is incurable; it has reached even Judah; it has approached the gate of my people, as far as Jerusalem itself. ¹⁰Do not tell it in Gath; do not weep at all. Roll in the dust in Beth-leaphrah. ¹¹Depart in shameful nakedness, O dwellers of Shaphir. The dwellers of Zaanan will not come out. Beth-ezel is in mourning; its support is taken from you. ¹²For the dwellers of Maroth pined for good, but calamity came down from the LORD, even to the gate of Jerusalem. ¹³Harness your chariot horses, O dweller of Lachish. You were the beginning of sin to the Daughter of Zion, for the transgressions of Israel were found in you. ¹⁴Therefore, send farewell gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib will prove deceptive to the kings of Israel. ¹⁵I will again bring a conqueror against you, O dweller of Mareshah. The glory of Israel will come to Adullam. ¹⁶Shave yourselves bald and cut off your hair in mourning

for your precious children; make yourselves as bald as an eagle, for they will go from you into exile.

Chapter 2

WOE TO OPPRESSORS

¹Woe to those who devise iniquity and plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they accomplish it because the power is in their hands. ²They covet fields and seize them; they take away houses. They deprive a man of his home, a fellow man of his inheritance. ³Therefore this is what the LORD says: "I am planning against this nation a disaster from which you cannot free your necks. Then you will not walk so proudly, for it will be a time of calamity. ⁴In that day they will take up a proverb against you and taunt you with this bitter lamentation: 'We are utterly ruined! He has changed the portion of my people. How He has removed it from me! He has allotted our fields to traitors.'" ⁵Therefore, you will have no one in the assembly of the LORD to divide the land by lot.

REPROOF OF FALSE PROPHETS

⁶"Do not preach," they preach. "Do not preach these things; disgrace will not overtake us." ⁷Should it be said, O house of Jacob, "Is the Spirit of the LORD impatient? Are these the things He does?" Do not My words bring good to him who walks uprightly? ⁸But of late My people have risen up like an enemy: You strip off the splendid robe from unsuspecting passersby like men returning from battle. ⁹You drive the women of My people from their pleasant homes. You take away My blessing from their children forever. ¹⁰Arise and depart, for this is not your place of rest, because its defilement brings destruction—a grievous destruction! ¹¹If a man of wind were to come and say falsely, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," he would be just the preacher for this people!

THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL

¹²I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will collect the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in the midst of its pasture—a noisy throng. ¹³One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate, and go out by it. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD as their leader.

Chapter 3

RULERS AND PROPHETS CONDEMNED

¹Then I said: “Hear now, O leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice? ²You hate good and love evil. You tear the skin from my people and strip the flesh from their bones. ³You eat the flesh of my people after stripping off their skin and breaking their bones. You chop them up like flesh for the cooking pot, like meat in a cauldron.” ⁴Then they will cry out to the LORD, but He will not answer them. At that time He will hide His face from them because of the evil they have done. ⁵This is what the LORD says: “As for the prophets who lead My people astray, who proclaim peace while they chew with their teeth, but declare war against one who puts nothing in their mouths: ⁶Therefore night will come over you without visions, and darkness without divination. The sun will set on these prophets, and the daylight will turn black over them. ⁷Then the seers will be ashamed and the diviners will be disgraced. They will all cover their mouths because there is no answer from God.” ⁸As for me, however, I am filled with power by the Spirit of the LORD, with justice and courage, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. ⁹Now hear this, O leaders of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who despise justice and pervert all that is right, ¹⁰who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with iniquity. ¹¹Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets practice divination for money. Yet they lean upon the LORD, saying, “Is not the LORD among us? No disaster can come upon us.” ¹²Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, and the temple mount a wooded ridge.

Chapter 4

THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

¹In the last days 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. ²And many nations will come and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³Then He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor will they train anymore for war. ⁴And each man will sit under his own vine

and under his own fig tree, with no one to frighten him. For the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken. ⁵Though all the nations may walk in the name of their gods, yet we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

THE RESTORATION OF ZION

⁶“On that day,” declares the LORD, “I will gather the lame; I will assemble the outcast, even those whom I have afflicted. ⁷And I will make the lame into a remnant, the outcast into a strong nation. Then the LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever. ⁸And you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion—the former dominion will be restored to you; sovereignty will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem.” ⁹Why do you now cry aloud? Is there no king among you? Has your counselor perished so that anguish grips you like a woman in labor? ¹⁰Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor. For now you will leave the city and camp in the open fields. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies! ¹¹But now many nations have assembled against you, saying, “Let her be defiled, and let us feast our eyes on Zion.” ¹²But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD or understand His plan, for He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor. ¹³Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron and hooves of bronze to break to pieces many peoples. Then you will devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

Chapter 5

A RULER FROM BETHLEHEM

¹Now, O daughter of troops, mobilize your troops; for a siege is laid against us! With a rod they will strike the cheek of the judge of Israel. ²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth for Me One to be ruler over Israel—One whose origins are of old, from the days of eternity. ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers will return to the children of Israel. ⁴He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD His God. And they will dwell securely, for then His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. ⁵And He will be our peace when Assyria invades our land and tramples our citadels. We will raise against it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men. ⁶And they will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod with the blade

drawn. So He will deliver us when Assyria invades our land and marches into our borders.

THE REMNANT OF JACOB

⁷Then the remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind. ⁸Then the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which tramples and tears as it passes through, with no one to rescue them. ⁹Your hand will be lifted over your foes, and all your enemies will be cut off. ¹⁰“In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will remove your horses from among you and wreck your chariots. ¹¹I will remove the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. ¹²I will cut the sorceries from your hand, and you will have no fortune-tellers. ¹³I will also cut off the carved images and sacred pillars from among you, so that you will no longer bow down to the work of your own hands. ¹⁴I will root out the Asherah poles from your midst and demolish your cities. ¹⁵I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed Me.”

Chapter 6

THE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL

¹Hear now what the LORD says: “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, O mountains, the LORD’s indictment, you enduring foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against His people, and He will argue it against Israel: ³“My people, what have I done to you? Testify against Me how I have wearied you! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery. I sent Moses before you, as well as Aaron and Miriam. ⁵My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you may acknowledge the righteousness of the LORD.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD when I bow before the God on high? Should I come to Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves? ⁷Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

THE PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL

⁹The voice of the LORD calls out to the city (and it is sound wisdom to fear Your name): “Heed the rod and the One who ordained it. ¹⁰Can I forget any longer, O house of the wicked, the treasures of wickedness and the short ephah, which is accursed? ¹¹Can I excuse dishonest scales or bags of false weights? ¹²For the wealthy of the city are full of violence, and its residents speak lies; their tongues are deceitful in their mouths. ¹³Therefore I am striking you severely, to ruin you because of your sins. ¹⁴You will eat but not be satisfied, and your hunger will remain with you. What you acquire, you will not preserve; and what you save, I will give to the sword. ¹⁵You will sow but not reap; you will press olives but not anoint yourselves with oil; you will tread grapes but not drink the wine. ¹⁶You have kept the statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab’s house; you have followed their counsel. Therefore I will make you a desolation, and your inhabitants an object of contempt; you will bear the scorn of the nations.”

Chapter 7

ISRAEL’S GREAT MISERY

¹Woe is me! For I am like one gathering summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster to eat, no early fig that I crave. ²The godly man has perished from the earth; there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; they hunt one another with a net. ³Both hands are skilled at evil; the prince and the judge demand a bribe. When the powerful utters his evil desire, they all conspire together. ⁴The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is sharper than a hedge of thorns. The day for your watchmen has come, the day of your visitation. Now is the time of their confusion. ⁵Do not rely on a friend; do not trust in a companion. Seal the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms. ⁶For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies are the members of his own household.

ISRAEL’S CONFESSION AND COMFORT

⁷But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. ⁸Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will arise; though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. ⁹Because I have sinned against Him, I must endure the rage of the LORD, until He argues my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me into the light; I will see His righteousness. ¹⁰Then my enemy will see and will be covered with shame—she who said to me, “Where is the LORD

your God?” My eyes will see her; at that time she will be trampled like mud in the streets. ¹¹The day for rebuilding your walls will come—the day for extending your boundary. ¹²On that day they will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, even from Egypt to the Euphrates, from sea to sea and mountain to mountain. ¹³Then the earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as the fruit of their deeds.

GOD’S COMPASSION ON ISRAEL

¹⁴Shepherd with Your staff Your people, the flock of Your inheritance. They live alone in a woodland, surrounded by pastures. Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. ¹⁵As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I

will show My wonders. ¹⁶Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their might. They will put their hands over their mouths, and their ears will become deaf. ¹⁷They will lick the dust like a snake, like reptiles slithering on the ground. They will come trembling from their strongholds in the presence of the LORD our God; they will tremble in fear of You. ¹⁸Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance—who does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in loving devotion? ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; He will vanquish our iniquities. You will cast out all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will show faithfulness to Jacob and loving devotion to Abraham, as You swore to our fathers from the days of old.