

MICAH

CHAPTER 1

And the word of the Lord came to Micah the son of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, and Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, concerning that which he saw about Samaria and Jerusalem.

²Hear these words, ye peoples; and let the earth give heed, and all that are therein: and the Lord shall be among you for a testimony, the Lord from His holy habitation. ³For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and go upon the high places of the earth. ⁴And the mountains shall be shaken under Him, and the valleys shall melt as wax before the fire, and as water that is poured down a steep descent. ⁵For the transgression of Jacob are all these, and for the sin of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? *is it* not Samaria? and what is the sin of the house of Judah? *is it* not Jerusalem? ⁶Therefore I will make Samaria as a storehouse of the fruits of the field, and *as* a planting of a vineyard: and I will tear down her stones into a valley, and I will discover her foundations. ⁷And all the graven images shall they cut in pieces, and all her houses of hire shall they burn with fire, and all her idols will I utterly destroy: because she hath gathered of the hires of whoredom, and of the hires of whoredom hath she heaped up riches. ⁸Therefore shall she lament and wail, she shall go barefoot and naked; she shall make a lamentation like serpents, and mourning as of the daughters of Sirens. ⁹For her calamity hath taken hold upon her; for it is come even unto Judah, and is come unto the gate of my people, even to Jerusalem. ¹⁰Ye that are in Gath, exalt not yourselves; and ye of Aphrah, rebuild not out of an house a laughingstock: sprinkle dust *in the place of* your laughter. ¹¹The inhabitant of Shaphir, fairly inhabiting her cities, came not forth to mourn for the house next to her: she shall receive of you the stroke of grief. ¹²Who hath made a beginning to act for good unto her that dwelleth in sorrow? for calamities are come down from the Lord upon the gates of Jerusalem, ¹³even a voice of chariots and horsemen: the inhabitants of Lachish, she is the leader of sin unto the daughter of Zion: for in thee were found the transgressions of Israel. ¹⁴Therefore shall He cause men to be sent forth unto the inheritance of Gath, *even* vain houses; they are become vanity unto the kings of Israel; ¹⁵until they bring the heirs, O thou inhabitant of Lachish: the inheritance shall reach unto Adullam, even the glory of the daughter of Israel. ¹⁶Shave and poll thine hair for thy delicate children; enlarge thy widowhood as an eagle; for thy people are taken captive from thee.

CHAPTER 2

They devised troubles, and worked evils upon their beds, and with the daylight they practised it; because they have not lifted up their hands

unto God. ²And they desired fields, and spoiled the fatherless, and oppressed families, and spoiled a man and his house, even a man and his inheritance. ³Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, against this family do I devise evils, from which ye shall not lift up your necks, neither shall ye walk upright suddenly: for it is an evil time. ⁴In that day shall a parable be taken up against you, and a lamentation shall be wailed with a tune, saying, We suffered hardship in misery: a portion of my people was measured out with a line, and there was none to hinder him to turn him back; your fields have been divided. ⁵Therefore shalt thou have none to cast a line for the lot. ⁶Weep not with tears in the assembly of the Lord, neither let any weep for these things; for He shall not take away the reproaches, ⁷Which saith, The house of Jacob hath provoked the Spirit of the Lord: are not these His doings? Are not His words right with him? and have they not proceeded rightly? ⁸Even aforetime my people withstood in hostility to His peace; they have stripped off His skin to remove hope in the conflict of war. ⁹The leaders of My people shall be cast forth from their houses of luxury; they are cast out by reason of their evil doings; draw nigh unto the everlasting mountains. ¹⁰Arise thou, and depart; for this is not thy rest by reason of uncleanness: ye have been utterly destroyed; ¹¹ye have fled, with none pursuing you: thy spirit hath framed falsehood; it hath dropped on thee for wine and strong drink. But it shall come to pass, out of the dropping of this people, ¹²that Jacob shall be entirely gathered in with all his people: I will surely receive the remnant of Israel; I will make them to return together, as sheep in trouble, as a flock in the midst of their fold: they shall leap away from among men; ¹³through the breach *that is made before them they have broken through*, and passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king is gone out before them, and the Lord shall lead them.

CHAPTER 3

And He shall say, Hear now these words, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and ye remnant of the house of Israel; is it not for you to know judgment? ²who hate the good, and seek the evil; who pluck off their skins from off them, and their flesh from off their bones: ³even as they devoured the flesh of My people, and stripped their skins off them, and brake their bones, and dried them as flesh for the caldron, and as meat for the pot, ⁴thus shall they cry unto the Lord, but He will not hear them; and He will turn away His face from them at that time, because they have done wickedly in their practices against themselves. ⁵Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that lead My people astray, that bite with their teeth, and proclaim peace unto them; and when nothing was put into their mouth, they raised up war against them: ⁶Therefore night shall be unto you, instead of a vision, and there shall be dark unto you instead of prophecy; and the sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be dark upon them. ⁷And the seers of night visions shall be ashamed, and the prophets shall be laughed to scorn:

and all the people shall speak against them, because there shall be none to hearken unto them. ⁸Surely I will strengthen myself with the Spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of power, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sins. ⁹Hear now these words, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and the remnant of the house of Israel, that hate judgment, and pervert all righteousness; ¹⁰that build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. ¹¹The heads thereof have judged for gifts, and the priests thereof have answered for hire, and her prophets have divined for silver: and yet have they rested on the Lord, saying, Is not the Lord among us? none evil shall come upon us. ¹²Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall be as a storehouse of fruits, and the mountains of the house as a grove of the forest.

CHAPTER 4

And at the last days shall the mountain of the Lord be manifest, established in the tops of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and the peoples shall hasten unto it. ²And many nations shall go, and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and they shall shew us His way, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth a law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ³And He shall judge among many peoples and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: and nation shall no more lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn to war any more. ⁴And they shall rest every man under his vine, and every one under his fig tree; and there shall be none to alarm *them*: for the mouth of the Lord Almighty hath spoken these *words*. ⁵For all the people shall walk every one in his own way, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. ⁶In that day, saith the Lord, I will gather her that is bruised, and I will receive her that is cast out, and them that I have rejected. ⁷And I will make her that was bruised a remnant, and her that was rejected a mighty nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. ⁸And thou, dark tower of the flock, daughter of Zion, on thee shall the dominion come and enter in, even the first kingdom from Babylon to the daughter of Jerusalem. ⁹And now, why hast thou known calamities? Was there not a king to thee? Or is thy counsel perished that pangs as of a woman in travail have seized upon thee? ¹⁰Be in pain, and strengthen thee with a man's strength, and draw near, O daughter of Zion, as a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt lodge in the plain, and thou shalt reach even to Babylon: thence shall the Lord thy God deliver thee; and thence shall he redeem thee out of the hand of thine enemies. ¹¹Now also many nations are gathered against thee, saying, We will rejoice, and our eyes shall look upon Zion. ¹²But they knew not the thought of the Lord, neither have they understood His counsel: for He hath gathered them as sheaves of the floor. ¹³Arise and thresh them, O

daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horns iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt utterly destroy many nations, and consecrate their abundance unto the Lord, and the strength unto the Lord of all the earth. ¹⁴Now shall a daughter of Ephraim be hedged in with an obstruction: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the tribes of Israel with a rod upon the cheeks.

CHAPTER 5

And thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou art few in number to be counted among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me He that is to be ruler in Israel; and His goings forth have been from the beginning, even from everlasting. ²Therefore shall He appoint unto them a time of travail; she shall bring forth, and then the remnant of their brethren shall return unto the sons of Israel. ³And He shall stand, and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they shall dwell in the glory of the name of the Lord their God: for now shall they be magnified unto the ends of the earth. ⁴And she shall have peace when Assyria cometh into your land, and when he cometh up upon your country; and there shall be raised up against him seven shepherds, and eight stings of men. ⁵And they shall tend the Assyrian with a sword, and the land of Nimrod with her trench: and He shall deliver *you* from the Assyrian, when he cometh upon your land, and when he invadeth your coasts. ⁶And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations in the midst of many peoples, as dew falling from the Lord, and as lambs upon the grass; that none may assemble nor resist among the sons of men. ⁷And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations in the midst of many nations, as a lion in the forest among cattle, and as a lion's whelp among flocks of sheep, even as when he goeth through, and chooseth, and carrieth off *his prey*, and there is none to deliver. ⁸Thine hand shall be lifted up against them that afflict thee, and all thine enemies shall be utterly destroyed. ⁹And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off the horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: ¹⁰and I will utterly destroy the cities of thy land, and demolish all thy strong holds: ¹¹and I will utterly destroy thy sorceries out of thine hands; and there shall be no soothsayers in thee. ¹²And I will utterly destroy thy graven images, and thy statutes out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt never more worship the works of thine hands. ¹³And I will cut off the groves out of the midst of thee, and abolish thy cities. ¹⁴And I will execute vengeance on the heathen in anger and wrath, because they have not hearkened.

CHAPTER 6

Hear ye now a word; the Lord God hath said; Arise, plead thou with the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice. ²Hear ye, O mountains, the

Lord's controversy, and ye valleys *even* the strong foundation of the earth: for the Lord hath a controversy with His people, and He will plead with Israel. ³O My people, what have I done unto thee? or wherein have I grieved thee? or wherein have I troubled thee? answer me. ⁴For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of bondage; and I sent before thee Moses and Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O My people remember now what counsel Balak king of Moab took against thee, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from the reeds to Gilgal; that the righteousness of the Lord might be known. ⁶Wherewithal shall I reach the Lord, and lay hold of my God Most High? Shall I reach Him with whole burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? ⁷Will the Lord accept thousands of rams, or ten thousands of fat goats? shall I give my firstborn for ungodliness, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸Hath it not been told thee, O man, what is good? or what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justice, and love mercy, and be ready to walk with the Lord thy God? ⁹The Lord's voice shall be proclaimed in the city, and He shall save them that fear His name: hear, O tribe; and who shall order the city? ¹⁰*Is there* not fire, and the house of the wicked heaping up wicked treasures, and that with the pride of unrighteousness? ¹¹Shall the wicked be justified by the balance, or deceitful weights in the bag, ¹²whereby they have filled their riches with ungodliness; and they that dwell in the city have spoken lies, and their tongue hath been exalted in their mouth? ¹³And I begin to smite thee; I will destroy thee in thy sins. ¹⁴Thou shalt eat, and not be satisfied; and there shall be darkness upon thee; and he shall depart from thee, and thou shalt not escape; and all they that escape shall be delivered over to the sword. ¹⁵Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt press the olive, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with oil; and wine, but ye shall drink no wine: and the ordinances of My people shall be utterly abolished. ¹⁶For thou hast kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and ye have walked in their ways, that I might deliver thee to utter destruction, and them that inhabit the city to an hissing: and ye shall bear the reproach of nations.

CHAPTER 7

Woe is me! for I am become as one gathering straw in harvest, and as grape gleanings in the vintage, when there is no cluster for me to eat the firstripe fruit: alas, my soul! ²For the godly is perished out of the earth; and there is none among men that ordereth *his way* aright: they all quarrel even unto blood: they grievously afflict every one his neighbour: ³they make ready their hands for mischief; the prince asketh a reward, and the judge speaketh flattering words; it is their souls' desire: ⁴therefore will I take away their substance as a devouring moth, and as one that goeth by rule in a day of visitation. Woe, woe, thy times of vengeance are come; now shall be their lamentations. ⁵Trust thou not in friends, and put not your confidence in guides: beware of thy wife, so as not to commit any thing unto her. ⁶For the

son dishonoureth his father, the daughter will rise up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law: a man's enemies are all those in his house. ⁷But I will look unto the Lord; I will wait upon God my Saviour: my God will hear me. ⁸Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: for I have fallen, yet shall I arise; for though I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. ⁹I will bear the anger of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He make good my cause: He also shall maintain my right, and bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness. ¹⁰And she that is mine enemy shall see it, and clothe herself with shame which sayeth, Where is the Lord thy God? mine eyes shall look upon her: now shall she be for treading as mire in the ways. ¹¹During a day of daubing of brick, that day shall be thine utter destruction, and that day shall utterly abolish thine ordinances. ¹²And thy cities shall be levelled, and parted among the Assyrians; and thy strong cities shall be parted from Tyre even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain. ¹³And the land shall be utterly desolate together with them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings. ¹⁴Shepherd Thy people with Thy rod, the sheep of Thine heritage, which solitarily inhabit the thicket in the midst of Carmel: they shall feed in Bashan, and in Gilead, as in the days of old. ¹⁵And according to the days of thy coming out of Egypt, shall ye see marvellous *things*. ¹⁶The nations shall see and be ashamed; and at their might shall they lay their hands upon their mouth, the ears shall be deafened. ¹⁷They shall lick the dust like serpents that crawl upon the earth, they shall be confounded in their confinement; they shall be amazed at the Lord our God, and will be afraid of Thee. ¹⁸Who is a God like unto Thee, removing iniquities, and passing over the sins of the remnant of His inheritance? And He hath not kept His anger for a testimony, for He delighteth in mercy. ¹⁹He will return and have mercy upon us; He will sink our iniquities, and they shall be cast into the depths of the sea, *even* all our sins. ²⁰He shall give blessings truly unto Jacob, and mercy unto Abraham, as Thou swarest unto our fathers, according to the former days.