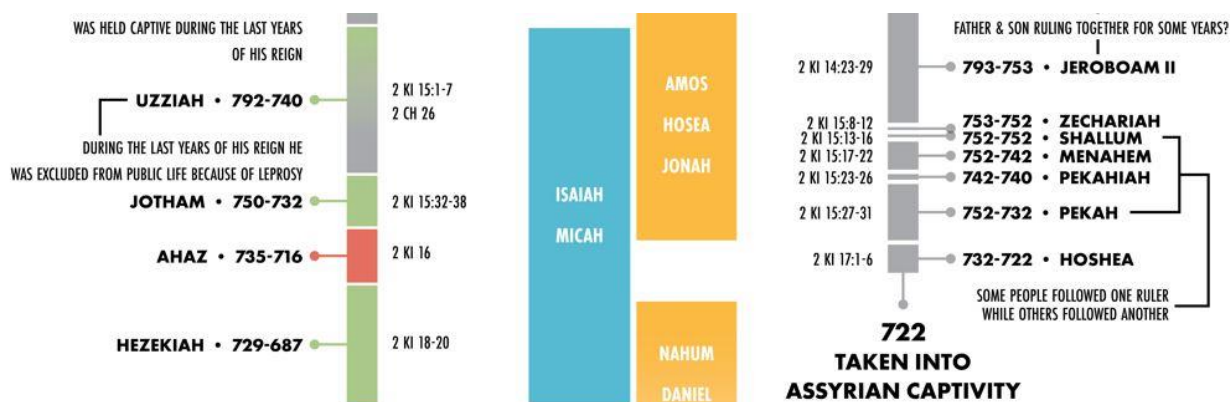


NKJ **Micah** 1:1 - The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

- We get a glimpse of what Micah's prophecy is about by looking at the history of the kings that ruled Israel in his day.
- Let's understand what was happening in Israel and Judah during the days of Micah's prophecy -
- The prophecy applies to both Israel and Judah, though much of it was fulfilled in the captivity of Israel (northern tribes)



<https://visualtheology.church/shop/poste 1>

- Prophecy spans the latter reign of Judah's king Jothan thru the early reign of Hezekiah.
  - **The kings of Judah –**
    - Jotham – son of Uzziah - Good king, but YHVH allowed Pekah (Israel) and Rezin (Syria) to attack Judah
    - Ahaz – bad king – brought idolatry to Judah – Attacked by Rezin (King of Syria) and captive taken to Damascus.
      - ◇ Later attacked by Israel (King Pekah) – 2 Chron. 28:5-15 – which may have inspired the story of the 'Good Samaritan'.
- NKJ **2 Chron.** 28:19 - For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.
- ◇ Israel taken captive during the latter part of Ahaz's reign
  - Hezekiah – a good king – attempted to undo the harm his father had brought on Judah
    - ◇ Restored Torah, festivals, etc.
    - ◇ Reached out to those Israelites who had escaped being taken captive by Assyria (see below)



NKJ **2 Chron.** 30:5-6 - So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done *it* for a long *time* in the *prescribed* manner. <sup>6</sup> Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. One last point – the prophecy speaks of destruction then deliverance; destruction then deliverance.

- **Kings of Israel –**

- Pekah – became king during latter reign of Uzziah – a bad king
- Hoshea – killed Pekah – bad king
  - ◇ 2 Kings 17:3 - Shalmaneser (king of Assyria) threatened Hoshea, and Hoshea became a vassal
  - ◇ Shalmaneser later took Hoshea captive for conspiring with Egypt. He later took control of Samaria
  - ◇ In the 9<sup>th</sup> year of his reign – Shalmaneser took Israel captive to Assyria and Persia
- 2 Kings 17:7-41 – the testimony of what had been foretold would happen to Israel and Judah if they did not continue in the ways of YHVH – DID HAPPEN!
- Hezekiah becomes king of Judah in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Hoshea's reign
- Other prophets include Hosea and Isaiah
- Micah is quoted in the NT –
  - **Micah 5:2 (5:1 LXX) and Matthew 2:6**
  - **Micah 7:6 - Matthew 10:35–36 and Luke 12:53**

NKJ **Micah** 1:2-4 - 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. <sup>3</sup> For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth. <sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.

- A dire prediction - YHVH is coming down to deal with Israel and Judah.
  - Many of these are dual prophecies – thus what happened before will likely happen again.
  - The punishment of Israel and Judah will be similar –
    - Israel was taken captive and carried to a foreign land; the same happened to Judah

NKJ **Micah** 1:5-7 - 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? <sup>6</sup> "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. <sup>7</sup> 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."

- Vs. 5-6 – The sins of both Israel and Judah were idolatry.
  - most prominent in their capital cities – Samaria and Jerusalem.



- Lev. 26:30 – states that the ‘high places’ would be a reason for scattering Israel (both Israel and Judah).
  - Deut. 33:29 - Once they entered the land, Israel was supposed to destroy all the ‘high places of the Caananites
  - 1 Kings 3:2 – idol worship at the ‘high places’ continued during the reign of Solomon
    - 1 Kings 12:31 - Intensified during the reign of Jeroboam
    - 1 Kings 14:22-23 – including in Judea under Rehoboam
    - 1 Kings 15:14 – shows that even under ‘good’ kings, the high places remained
    - 2 Kings 15:35 – this continued through the days of King Jotham (Judah) during the days of Micah’s prophecy.
  - Vs. 7 – apparently, many of the idols that were placed at the ‘high places’ were paid for by the proceeds of temple prostitutes
- NKJ **Micah** 1:8-9 - 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, <sup>9</sup> For her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people-- To Jerusalem.
- YHVH will not be happy with what He has to do –
    - It was prophesied to happen, therefore it must happen.
- NKJ **Micah** 1:10-12 - Tell *it* not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust. <sup>11</sup> Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir; The inhabitant of Zaanen does not go out. Beth Ezel mourns; Its place to stand is taken away from you. <sup>12</sup> For the inhabitant of Maroth pined for good, But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.
- Gath and Beth Aphrah are Philistine cities (Gaza). YHVH is saying that they should not exalt themselves. After all, they had nothing to do with this. This was YHVH’s punishment on Israel.
    - LXX implies that they should sprinkle dust on their heads instead of laughing since YHVH is able to bring the same calamity on them.
- NKJ **Micah** 1:13-16 - 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. <sup>14</sup> Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; The houses of Achzib *shall be* a lie to the kings of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam. <sup>16</sup> 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.
- Lachish – a city south of Jerusalem. Formally belonged to the Amorites and was a source of the pagan culture that infiltrated Judea.
  - Moresheth Gath – probably a reference to Micah’s home town (see vs. 1). Micah was currently fortelling Lachish’s fate, so they should be thankful to know this in advance.
  - Achzib – a town located in southwest Judea, but the name means ‘deceitful’. In other words – the previous cities – specifically Lachish – have been a source of lies to the kings of Israel.
    - They will all be a part of the devastation
  - Vs. 15-16 – ‘I will bring an ‘heir’ (yarash – יָרַשׁ – 3423 – to seize occupy, impoverish) –
    - ‘cut off your hair’ – a sign of mourning – like in the case of Elisha after Elijah died (2 Kings 2:23).



- These cities would all be taken captive

## Micah 2

NKJ **Micah 2:1-3** - 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

- YHVH will begin to take vengeance on evil-doers.
  - A specific case – Ahab & Jezebel who killed Naboth for his vineyard (1 Kings 21)
  - 'an evil time' = a time that is not good

NKJ **Micah 2:4-5** - 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.'" <sup>5</sup> Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

- 'in that day' – an indication of coming disaster
- The people will blame YHVH. The same one who gave them their land has now taken it from them and given it to others.

NKJ **Micah 2:6-7** - <sup>6</sup> "Do not prattle," *you say to those* who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult. <sup>7</sup> *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?"

- 'prattle' and 'prophecy' are the same Hebrew word 'nataph' ( נָטַף – 5197 – to drop, preach, prophesy)
  - Preaching and prophesying will not stop the impending disaster (NKJ translation is not good).
  - ESV = "... one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us."
    - This is what the prophets in Jeremiah's day said of the soon-coming captivity of Judah.
  - Vs. 7 – Do Yah's people not know that He will accomplish His word – either good or bad?

NKJ **Micah 2:8-9** - <sup>8</sup> "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. <sup>9</sup> The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.

- You are not acting like 'my people'!
  - You steal from strangers who are just passing through – even soldiers returning from war.
  - You cast mothers out of the home (in order to take another wife) and thus separate the children from the mother who would otherwise teach them the way of YHVH.

NKJ **Micah 2:10-13** - "Arise and depart, For this *is* not *your* rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction. <sup>11</sup> 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.

- This is not the 'rest' ('menuchah' - 4496) that YHVH had intended for Israel.



- What you have become will destroy you
- Solomon thought he had brought 'rest' (1 Chron. 22:9, 1 Kings 8:56), but it was only temporary
- The 'rest' of YHVH will be brought by Messiah Yeshua (Isaiah 11:10)
- Vs. 11 – don't head those who speak of times of 'wine and drink' because it is not going to happen.
- After all this talk of destruction, the prophet speaks of the end-time gathering of Israel
 

<sup>12</sup> "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. <sup>13</sup> 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."
- Vs. 12 –
  - YHVH will begin to draw 'the remnant' of His people to Him
  - They will be like sheep who have been penned up – ready to break out of the pen
    - A loud people because of the numbers
    - As they escape the sheep pen, they break down the walls and more and more come out.
  - He will open the gate and they will 'parats' (6555) - 'break through' – the gate
  - They will follow YHVH – their head.
  - This is what Yeshua was saying of John the Baptist in Matthew 11:12-13
    - John – in the spirit of Elijah – is the breaker.
      - ◇ He showed that Israel can return, but not through the religious system of that day
- See my article 'John the Baptist' – *the breaker and our calling* - <https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/JohnTheBaptist/JohnTheBaptist%20-%20P3.htm>
- Just as it was in Yeshua's day, we are those of the house of Israel who are just now leaving the fold, breaking down walls as we go. God kept us penned up and protected in churches for years, but now has set us free to perform the job for which we've been called. We do so just as Malachi prophesied – we:

<sup>LXE</sup> **Malachi 4:2** "... go forth, and bound as young calves let loose from bonds."