

Jotham, Uzziah's Son, Begins Sole Reign of Judah (740t BC)

2 Kings 15:34–35a	2 Chronicles 27:2
<p>34 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.</p> <p>35a Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.</p>	<p>2 He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done; however he did not enter the temple of the LORD.</p> <p>But the people continued acting corruptly.</p>

Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Judgment of Israel and Judah (c. 740–723 BC)

Micah 1–2

Title

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

The Divine Warrior Comes to Judge Samaria and Israel

- 2 Hear, O peoples, all of you;
Listen, O earth and all it contains,
And let the Lord GOD be a witness against you,
The Lord from His holy temple.
- 3 For behold, the LORD is coming forth from His place.
He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.
- 4 The mountains will melt under Him
And the valleys will be split,
Like wax before the fire,
Like water poured down a steep place.
- 5 All this is for the rebellion of Jacob
And for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the rebellion of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
What is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem?
- 6 For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country,
Planting places for a vineyard.
I will pour her stones down into the valley
And will lay bare her foundations.
- 7 All of her idols will be smashed,
All of her earnings will be burned with fire
And all of her images I will make desolate,
For she collected *them* from a harlot's earnings,
And to the earnings of a harlot they will return.

Micah Laments the Coming Invasion of Judah

- 8 Because of this I must lament and wail,
I must go barefoot and naked;
I must make a lament like the jackals
And a mourning like the ostriches.
- 9 For her wound is incurable,

- For it has come to Judah;
It has reached the gate of my people,
Even to Jerusalem.
- 10 Tell it not in Gath,
Weep not at all.
At Beth-le-aphrah roll yourself in the dust.
- 11 Go on your way, inhabitant of Shaphir, in shameful nakedness.
The inhabitant of Zaanan does not escape.
The lamentation of Beth-ezel: “He will take from you its support.”
- 12 For the inhabitant of Maroth
Becomes weak waiting for good,
Because a calamity has come down from the LORD
To the gate of Jerusalem.
- 13 Harness the chariot to the team of horses,
O inhabitant of Lachish—
She was the beginning of sin
To the daughter of Zion—
Because in you were found
The rebellious acts of Israel.
- 14 Therefore you will give parting gifts
On behalf of Moresheth-gath;
The houses of Achzib *will* become a deception
To the kings of Israel.
- 15 Moreover, I will bring on you
The one who takes possession,
O inhabitant of Mareshah.
The glory of Israel will enter Adullam.
- 16 Make yourself bald and cut off your hair,
Because of the children of your delight;
Extend your baldness like the eagle,
For they will go from you into exile.

Woe to Wealthy and Oppressive Land-grabbers

- 2:1 Woe to those who scheme iniquity,
Who work out evil on their beds!
When morning comes, they do it,
For it is in the power of their hands.
- 2 They covet fields and then seize *them*,
And houses, and take *them* away.
They rob a man and his house,
A man and his inheritance.
- 3 Therefore thus says the LORD,
- “Behold, I am planning against this family a calamity
From which you cannot remove your necks;
And you will not walk haughtily,
For it will be an evil time.
- 4 “On that day they will take up against you a taunt

And utter a bitter lamentation *and* say,
 ‘We are completely destroyed!
 He exchanges the portion of my people;
 How He removes it from me!
 To the apostate He apports our fields.’

- 5 “Therefore you will have no one stretching a measuring line
 For you by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

The Wealthy Wicked and Their False Prophets versus Micah and His God

- 6 ‘Do not speak out,’ *so* they speak out.
But if they do not speak out concerning these things,
 Reproaches will not be turned back.
- 7 “Is it being said, O house of Jacob:
 ‘Is the Spirit of the LORD impatient?
 Are these His doings?’
 Do not My words do good
 To the one walking uprightly?
- 8 “Recently My people have arisen as an enemy—
 You strip the robe off the garment
 From unsuspecting passers-by,
From those returned from war.
- 9 “The women of My people you evict,
 Each *one* from her pleasant house.
 From her children you take My splendor forever.
- 10 “Arise and go,
 For this is no place of rest
 Because of the uncleanness that brings on destruction,
 A painful destruction.
- 11 “If a man walking after wind and falsehood
 Had told lies *and said*,
 ‘I will speak out to you concerning wine and liquor,’
 He would be spokesman to this people.

The Restoration of a Remnant

- 12 “I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob,
 I will surely gather the remnant of Israel.
 I will put them together like sheep in the fold;
 Like a flock in the midst of its pasture
 They will be noisy with men.
- 13 “The breaker goes up before them;
 They break out, pass through the gate and go out by it.
 So their king goes on before them,
 And the LORD at their head.”

Jotham [Judah] Obeys God and Prospers (c. 738t BC)

2 Kings 15:35b

2 Chronicles 27:3–6

35b He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD.

3 He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively the wall of Ophel.

	<p>4 Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and he built fortresses and towers on the wooded <i>hills</i>.</p> <p>5 He fought also with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed over them so that the Ammonites gave him during that year one hundred talents of silver, ten thousand kors of wheat and ten thousand of barley. The Ammonites also paid him this <i>amount</i> in the second and in the third year.</p> <p>6 So Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God.</p>
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Chronological Notes

1) Micah.

A) The first verse of Micah dates his prophecies to the reigns of “Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah” (Mic 1:1). The dates for these kings’ reigns are as follows:

- (1) Jotham (751t–736t). [coregent in 751t, sole reign in 740t, Ahaz coregent in 736t, death in 732t].
- (2) Ahaz (732t–716t).
- (3) Hezekiah (716t–687t).

B) I will be following J. T. Willis’ division of Micah into three sections: 1–2, 3–5 and 6–7.¹ Since the destruction of Samaria is foretold in Micah 1:2–7, I have chosen to date this oracle to c. 740–723. Micah 3:12 is dated to the reign of Hezekiah (cf. Jer 26:18) and so I have dated the remaining two oracles (3–5, 6–7) to the time when Hezekiah was coregent with Ahaz (c. 720–715).²

¹ Bruce K. Waltke, “Micah,” *TOCT*, 157. Note that Waltke endorses Willis’ approach to the structure of Micah.

² Hezekiah was coregent with his father Ahaz from 729t/728n to 715. For more details on this coregency, see Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies,” *JETS* 47.4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.