

**Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Wicked Leaders Judged and a Future Righteous Ruler (c. 720–715 BC)**

## Micah 3–5

**Indictment of Judah's Leaders**

3:1 And I said,

“Hear now, heads of Jacob  
And rulers of the house of Israel.  
Is it not for you to know justice?

2 “You who hate good and love evil,  
Who tear off their skin from them  
And their flesh from their bones,

3 Who eat the flesh of my people,  
Strip off their skin from them,  
Break their bones  
And chop *them* up as for the pot  
And as meat in a kettle.”

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD,  
But He will not answer them.  
Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time  
Because they have practiced evil deeds.

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray;

When they have *something* to bite with their teeth,  
They cry, “Peace,”  
But against him who puts nothing in their mouths  
They declare holy war.

6 Therefore *it will be* night for you—without vision,  
And darkness for you—without divination.  
The sun will go down on the prophets,  
And the day will become dark over them.

7 The seers will be ashamed  
And the diviners will be embarrassed.  
Indeed, they will all cover *their* mouths  
Because there is no answer from God.

8 On the other hand I am filled with power—  
With the Spirit of the LORD—  
And with justice and courage  
To make known to Jacob his rebellious act,  
Even to Israel his sin.

9 Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob  
And rulers of the house of Israel,  
Who abhor justice  
And twist everything that is straight,

10 Who build Zion with bloodshed  
And Jerusalem with violent injustice.

11 Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe,  
Her priests instruct for a price

And her prophets divine for money.  
Yet they lean on the LORD saying,  
“Is not the LORD in our midst?  
Calamity will not come upon us.”

- 12 Therefore, on account of you Zion will be plowed as a field,  
Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,  
And the mountain of the temple *will become* high places of a forest. [[Jer 26:18](#)]

### **Millennium—Zion’s Future Exaltation**

- 4:1 And it will come about in the last days  
That 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.
- 2 Many nations will come and say,  
“Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD  
And to the house of the God of Jacob,  
That He may teach us about His ways  
And that we may walk in His paths.”  
For from Zion will go forth the law,  
Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 3 And He will judge between many peoples  
And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.  
Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
And never again will they train for war.
- 4 Each of them will sit under his vine  
And under his fig tree,  
With no one to make *them* afraid,  
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
- 5 Though all the peoples walk  
Each in the name of his god,  
As for us, we will walk  
In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. [compare with [Isaiah 2:1–5](#)]

### **Millennium—Restoration of a Remnant and Zion**

- 6 “In that day,” declares the LORD,  
“I will assemble the lame  
And gather the outcasts,  
Even those whom I have afflicted.
- 7 “I will make the lame a remnant  
And the outcasts a strong nation,  
And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion  
From now on and forever.
- 8 “As for you, tower of the flock,  
Hill of the daughter of Zion,  
To you it will come—  
Even the former dominion will come,

The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

### Exile and Deliverance

- 9 “Now, why do you cry out loudly?  
Is there no king among you,  
Or has your counselor perished,  
That agony has gripped you like a woman in childbirth?
- 10 “Writhe and labor to give birth,  
Daughter of Zion,  
Like a woman in childbirth;  
For now you will go out of the city,  
Dwell in the field,  
And go to Babylon.  
There you will be rescued;  
There the LORD will redeem you  
From the hand of your enemies.

### Tribulation—From Siege to Victory

- 11 “And now many nations have been assembled against you  
Who say, ‘Let her be polluted,  
And let our eyes gloat over Zion.’
- 12 “But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD,  
And they do not understand His purpose;  
For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.
- 13 “Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion,  
For your horn I will make iron  
And your hoofs I will make bronze,  
That you may pulverize many peoples,  
That you may devote to the LORD their unjust gain  
And their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

### From Helpless Ruler to Ideal King

- 5:1 “Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops;  
They have laid siege against us;  
With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.
- 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
*Too* little to be among the clans of Judah,  
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.  
His goings forth are from long ago,  
From the days of eternity.” [[Matt 2:6](#)]
- 3 Therefore He will give them *up* until the time  
When she who is in labor has borne a child.  
Then the remainder of His brethren  
Will return to the sons of Israel.
- 4 And He will arise and shepherd *His flock*  
In the strength of the LORD,  
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
And they will remain,  
Because at that time He will be great

To the ends of the earth.

### **Millennium—The Ideal King Will Deliver His People**

- 5 This One will be *our* peace.  
When the Assyrian invades our land,  
When he tramples on our citadels,  
Then we will raise against him  
Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.
- 6 They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,  
The land of Nimrod at its entrances;  
And He will deliver *us* from the Assyrian  
When he attacks our land  
And when he tramples our territory.

### **Millennium—The Remnant Among the Nations**

- 7 Then the remnant of Jacob  
Will be among many peoples  
Like dew from the LORD,  
Like showers on vegetation  
Which do not wait for man  
Or delay for the sons of men.
- 8 The remnant of Jacob  
Will be among the nations,  
Among many peoples  
Like a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
Like a young lion among flocks of sheep,  
Which, if he passes through,  
Tramples down and tears,  
And there is none to rescue.
- 9 Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries,  
And all your enemies will be cut off.

### **Millennium—Obliteration of Military Power and Pagan Worship**

- 10 “It will be in that day,” declares the LORD,  
“That I will cut off your horses from among you  
And destroy your chariots.
- 11 “I will also cut off the cities of your land  
And tear down all your fortifications.
- 12 “I will cut off sorceries from your hand,  
And you will have fortune-tellers no more.
- 13 “I will cut off your carved images  
And your *sacred* pillars from among you,  
So that you will no longer bow down  
To the work of your hands.
- 14 “I will root out your Asherim from among you  
And destroy your cities.
- 15 “And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath  
On the nations which have not obeyed.”

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