

Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Punishment and Future Restoration (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 6–7

A Divine Covenant Lawsuit

- 6:1 Hear now what the LORD is saying,
 “Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
 And let the hills hear your voice.
- 2 “Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD,
 And you enduring foundations of the earth,
 Because the LORD has a case against His people;
 Even with Israel He will dispute.
- 3 “My people, what have I done to you,
 And how have I wearied you? Answer Me.
- 4 “Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt
 And ransomed you from the house of slavery,
 And I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam.
- 5 “My people, remember now
 What Balak king of Moab counseled
 And what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
And from Shittim to Gilgal,
 So that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD.”
- 6 With what shall I come to the LORD
And bow myself before the God on high?
 Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings,
 With yearling calves?
- 7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams,
 In ten thousand rivers of oil?
 Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts,
 The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;
 And what does the LORD require of you
 But to do justice, to love kindness,
 And to walk humbly with your God? [cf. [Deut 10:12–13](#); [Matt 23:23](#)]

Further Charges and the Sentence

- 9 The voice of the LORD will call to the city—
 And it is sound wisdom to fear Your name:
 “Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?”
- 10 “Is there yet a man in the wicked house,
Along with treasures of wickedness
 And a short measure *that is* cursed?
- 11 “Can I justify wicked scales
 And a bag of deceptive weights?
- 12 “For the rich men of *the* city are full of violence,
 Her residents speak lies,
 And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.
- 13 “So also I will make *you* sick, striking you down,
 Desolating *you* because of your sins.
- 14 “You will eat, but you will not be satisfied,

And your vileness will be in your midst.
 You will *try to remove for safekeeping*,
 But you will not preserve *anything*,
 And what you do preserve I will give to the sword.

- 15 “You will sow but you will not reap.
 You will tread the olive but will not anoint yourself with oil;
 And the grapes, but you will not drink wine.
- 16 “The statutes of Omri
 And all the works of the house of Ahab are observed;
 And in their devices you walk.
 Therefore I will give you up for destruction
 And your inhabitants for derision,
 And you will bear the reproach of My people.”

A Lament Over a Decadent Society

- 7:1 Woe is me! For I am
 Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers.
 There is not a cluster of grapes to eat,
 Or a first-ripe fig *which* I crave.
- 2 The godly person has perished from the land,
 And there is no upright *person* among men.
 All of them lie in wait for bloodshed;
 Each of them hunts the other with a net.
- 3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well.
 The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe,
 And a great man speaks the desire of his soul;
 So they weave it together.
- 4 The best of them is like a briar,
 The most upright like a thorn hedge.
 The day when you post your watchmen,
 Your punishment will come.
 Then their confusion will occur.
- 5 Do not trust in a neighbor;
 Do not have confidence in a friend.
 From her who lies in your bosom
 Guard your lips.
- 6 For son treats father contemptuously,
 Daughter rises up against her mother,
 Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
 A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.
- 7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD;
 I will wait for the God of my salvation.
 My God will hear me.

A Psalm of Trust

- 8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy.
 Though I fall I will rise;
 Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.
- 9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD

Because I have sinned against Him,
Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me.
He will bring me out to the light,
And I will see His righteousness.

- 10 Then my enemy will see,
And shame will cover her who said to me,
“Where is the LORD your God?”
My eyes will look on her;
At that time she will be trampled down
Like mire of the streets.

Millennium—A Promise of Restoration

- 11 *It will be* a day for building your walls.
On that day will your boundary be extended.
12 *It will be* a day when they will come to you
From Assyria and the cities of Egypt,
From Egypt even to the Euphrates,
Even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.
13 And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants,
On account of the fruit of their deeds.

A Prayer, the Lord’s Answer and the Response

- 14 Shepherd Your people with Your scepter,
The flock of Your possession
Which dwells by itself in the woodland,
In the midst of a fruitful field.
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
As in the days of old.
15 “As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt,
I will show you miracles.”
16 Nations will see and be ashamed
Of all their might.
They will put *their* hand on *their* mouth,
Their ears will be deaf.
17 They will lick the dust like a serpent,
Like reptiles of the earth.
They will come trembling out of their fortresses;
To the LORD our God they will come in dread
And they will be afraid before You.

A Hymn of Praise to God

- 18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity
And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?
He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in unchanging love.
19 He will again have compassion on us;
He will tread our iniquities under foot.
Yes, You will cast all their sins
Into the depths of the sea.

20 You will give truth to Jacob
And unchanging love to Abraham,
Which You swore to our forefathers
From the days of old.

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