English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Micah

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Notes: English ULB Translation Notes

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## Micah

1

1This is the word of Yahweh that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.2Listen, all you peoples.Listen, earth, and all that is in you.Let the Lord Yahweh be a witness against you,the Lord from his holy temple.3Look, Yahweh comes out of his place;he will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.4The mountains will melt under him;the valleys will break apart,like wax before fire,like waters that are poured down a steep place.5All this is because of Jacob's transgression,and because of the sins of the house of Israel.What is Jacob's transgression?Is it not Samaria?What is Judah's high place?Is it not Jerusalem?

6"I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field,a place for planting vineyards,and I will pour her stones down into the valleyand I will uncover her foundations.7All her carved figures will be broken to pieces,and all her gifts that she received will be burned with fire,and I will make all her idols desolate.Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes,they will become the wages of prostitutes again."

8For this reason I will lament and wail;I will go barefoot and naked;I will wail like the jackalsand mourn like owls.9For her wound is incurable,for it has come to Judah.It has reached the gate of my people,to Jerusalem.10Do not tell about it in Gath;do not weep at all.At Beth LeaphrahI roll myself in the dust.11Pass by, inhabitants of Shaphir,in nakedness and shame.The inhabitants of Zaanando not come out.Beth Ezel mourns,for their protection is taken away.12For the inhabitants of Marothwait anxiously for good news,because disaster has come down from Yahwehto the gates of Jerusalem.13Harness the chariot to the team of horses,inhabitants of Lachish.You, Lachish, were the beginning of sin for the daughter of Zion,for the transgressions of Israel were found in you.14So you will give parting giftsto Moresheth Gath;the houses of Akzib will disappointthe kings of Israel.15I will again bring a conqueror to you,inhabitants of Mareshah;the splendor of Israelwill come to Adullam.16Shave your head and cut off your hairfor the children in whom you delight.Make yourself as bald as eagles,for your children will go into exile from you.

21Woe to those who plan iniquity,to those who plan on their beds to do evil.In the morning light they do itbecause they have power.2They desire fields and seize them;they desire houses and take them.They oppress a man and his house,a man and his inheritance.

3Therefore Yahweh says this,"Look, I am planning to bring disaster against this clan,from which you will not remove your necks.You will not walk arrogantly,for it will be an evil time.4In that day men will sing a taunting song about you,and lament with a wailing lamentation.They will sing, 'We Israelites are completely ruined;Yahweh changes the portion of my people.How can he remove it from me?He portions out our fields to traitors!'"

5Therefore, you rich people will have no descendantsto divide up the territory by lot in the assembly of Yahweh.

6"Do not prophesy," their prophets say."They must not prophesy these things;disgrace will not overtake us."7Should it really be said, house of Jacob,"Is the Spirit of Yahweh impatient?Are these really his deeds?"

Do not my words do goodto anyone who walks uprightly?8Lately my people have risen uplike an enemy.You strip the robe, the garment,from those who pass by unsuspectingly,as soldiers return from war to what they think is safety.9You drive the women belonging to my peoplefrom their pleasant houses;you take my splendorfrom their young children forever.10Get up and leave,for this is not a place where you can rest,because of its uncleanness;it is destroyed with complete destruction.11If someone comes to you in a spirit of falsehood and lies and says,"I will prophesy to you about wine and strong drink,"he would be considered to be a prophet for this people.

12I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob.I will surely gather the remnant of Israel.I will bring them together like sheep in a fold,like a flock in the midst of their pasture.There will be a loud noisebecause of the multitude of people.13Someone who breaks open their way for themwill go ahead of them.They break through the gate and go out;their king will pass on before them.Yahweh will be at their head.

3

1I said,"Now listen, you leaders of Jacoband rulers of the house of Israel:Is it not right for you to understand justice?2You who hate good and love evil,you who tear off their skin,their flesh from their bones—3you who also eat the flesh of my people,and tear off their skin,break their bones,and chop them in pieces,just like meat for a pot,just like meat in a cauldron.

4Then you rulers will cry out to Yahweh,but he will not answer you.He will hide his face from you at that time,because you have done evil deeds."

5Yahweh says this,"As for the prophetswho lead my people astray,if one gives them something to eat,they proclaim, 'Peace.'But if he puts nothing in their mouths,they dedicate themselves to wage war on him.6Therefore, it will be night for you with no vision for you;it will be dark so that you will do no divination.The sun will go down on the prophets,and the day will be dark on them.7The seers will be put to shame,and the diviners will be embarrassed.All of them will cover their lips,for there is no answer from God."8But as for me, I am full of power by the Spirit of Yahweh,and am full of justice and might,to declare to Jacob his transgression,and to Israel his sin.

9Now listen to this,you leaders of the house of Jacob,and rulers of the house of Israel,you who detest justice,and pervert everything that is right.10You build Zion with bloodand Jerusalem with iniquity.11Your leaders judge for a bribe,your priests teach for a price,and your prophets do divination for money.Yet you rely on Yahweh and say,"Is not Yahweh with us?No evil will come on us."12Therefore, because of you,Zion will become a plowed field,Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,and the hill of the templewill become high places of a thicket.

41But in the last days it will come aboutthat the mountain of the house of Yahwehwill be established as the chief over the other mountains.It will be exalted above the hills,and peoples will stream to it.

2Many nations will go and say,"Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh,to the house of the God of Jacob.He will teach us his ways,and we will walk in his paths."For from Zion the law will go out,and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.3He will judge among many peoplesand will decide concerning numerous nations far away.They will beat their swords into plowsharesand their spears into pruning hooks.Nation will not lift up sword against nation,nor will they train for war any longer.4Instead, they will sit every person under his vineand under his fig tree.No one will make them afraid,for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts has spoken.5For all the peoples walk,each one, in the name of their god.But we will walk in the name of Yahweh our Godforever and ever.

6"On that day"—this is Yahweh's declaration—"I will assemble the lameand gather the outcast,those whom I have afflicted.7I will turn the lame into a remnant,and the ones driven away into a strong nation,and I, Yahweh, will reign over them on Mount Zion,now and forever.8As for you, watchtower for the flock,hill of the daughter of Zion—to you it will come, your former dominion will be restored,the kingdom that belongs to the daughter of Jerusalem.

9Now, why do you shout so loudly?Is there no king among you?Has your counselor died?Is this why pain like a woman in labor seizes you?10Be in painand labor to give birth, daughter of Zion,like a woman in labor.For now you will go out of the city,live in the field,and go to Babylon.There you will be rescued.There Yahweh will redeem youfrom the hand of your enemies.

11Now many nationsare assembled against you;they say, 'Let her be defiled;let our eyes gloat over Zion.'12They do not know Yahweh's thoughts,neither do they understand his plans,for he has gathered them like bundles of grainprepared for the threshing floor.13Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion,for I will make your horn to be iron,and I will make your hooves to be bronze.You will crush many peoplesand you will devote their unjust gain to Yahweh,their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth."

51Now come together in battle ranks, daughter of soldiers!A siege has been set up against us!With a rod they strike the judge of Israelon the cheek. [1](#footnote-target-1)2But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,even though you are small among the clans of Judah,out of you one will come to meto rule in Israel,whose beginning is from ancient times,from everlasting.3Therefore God will give them up,until the time when she who is in labor bears a child,and the rest of his brothers returnto the people of Israel.4He will stand and shepherd his flockin the strength of Yahweh,in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God.They will remain,for then he will be great to the ends of the earth.5He will give us peace.

When the Assyrians come into our land,and when they march against our fortresses,then we will raise against them seven shepherdsand eight leaders over men.6They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,and the land of Nimrod in its entrances. [2](#footnote-target-2)He will rescue us from the Assyrians,when they come into our land,when they march inside our borders.

7The remnant of Jacob will bein the midst of many peoples,like dew from Yahweh,like showers on the grass,that do not wait for a man,and they do not wait for the children of mankind.8The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations,among many peoples,like a lion among the animals of the forest,like a young lion among the flocks of sheep.When he goes through them,he will trample over them and tear them to pieces,and there will be no one to save them.9Your hand will be lifted against your enemies,and it will destroy them.

10"It will happen in that day"—this is Yahweh's declaration—"that I will destroy your horses from among youand will demolish your chariots.11I will destroy the cities in your landand throw down all your strongholds.12I will destroy the witchcraft in your hand,and you will no longer have any diviners.13I will destroy your carved figuresand your stone pillars from among you.You will no longer worshipthe workmanship of your hands.14I will uproot your Asherah poles from among you,and I will destroy your cities.15I will execute vengeance in anger and wrathon the nations that have not listened."

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Instead of come together in battle ranks , some modern translations read cut yourselves , referring to the pagan practice of cutting oneself while praying to idols. There are some modern translations that follow an ancient translation of the Hebrew text that reads build up your fortifications . [2](#footnote-caller-2)The copies of the ancient Hebrew text have the phrase: in its entrances , that is, in their gates. However, some modern translations suppose that a different Hebrew word was intended: with a drawn sword .

6

1Now listen to what Yahweh says,"Arise and state your case before the mountains;let the hills hear your voice.2Hear, you mountains, Yahweh's accusation,you enduring foundations of the earth.For Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people,and he will fight in court against Israel.

3My people, what have I done to you?How have I wearied you? Answer me!4For I brought you up out of the land of Egyptand rescued you out of the house of bondage.I sent Moses, Aaron,and Miriam to you.5My people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,and how Balaam son of Beor answered himas you went from Shittim to Gilgal,so you may know the righteous acts of Yahweh."

6What should I bring to Yahweh,as I bow down to God on high?Should I come to him with burnt offerings,with calves a year old?7Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams,or with ten thousand rivers of oil?Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?8He has told you, man, what is good,and what Yahweh requires from you:Act justly, love kindness,and walk humbly with your God.

9The voice of Yahweh is making a proclamation to the city—even now wisdom fears your name:"Listen to the rod, and to the one who has put it in place. [1](#footnote-target-1)10There is wealth in the houses of the wicked that is dishonest,and false measures that are abominable.11Should I consider a person to be innocentif he uses fraudulent scales,with a bag of deceptive weights?12The rich men are full of violence,the inhabitants have spoken lies,and their tongue in their mouth is deceitful.13Therefore I will make you sick, striking you down,making you desolate because of your sins.14You will eat but not be satisfied;your emptiness will remain inside you.You will store goods away but not save,and what you do save I will give to the sword. [2](#footnote-target-2)15You will sow but not reap;you will tread the olives but not anoint yourselves with oil;you will press grapes but drink no wine.16You have observed the statutes of Omri,and all the works of the house of Ahab. You have walked in their counsels,Therefore I will give you over to ruinand your inhabitants to derision,and you will bear the scorn of my people." [3](#footnote-target-3)

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The copies of the ancient Hebrew text which were translated here read, Listen to the rod and to the one who has put it in place , but some modern translations have Listen, tribe, and those assembled together in the city . [2](#footnote-caller-2)Parts of this verse are difficult to understand, because in the copies of the ancient Hebrew text there are two Hebrew words in it whose meanings are not known. As a result, various other readings have been proposed by scholars and some modern translations follow those suggestions. [3](#footnote-caller-3)The copies of the ancient Hebrew text have you will bear the reproach of my people , but the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew copies reads: you will bear the scorn of the nations and some modern translations are following that reading.

71Woe is me!I have become like the gathering of summer fruit,and like the grapes that have been gleaned;there is no grape cluster to eat,no ripe early fig that my soul desires.2The faithful ones have vanished from the land;there is no upright person in all mankind.They all lie in wait to shed blood;each one hunts his own brother with a net.3Their hands are very good at doing harm:the ruler asks for money,the judge is ready for bribes,and the powerful man is telling others of the desire of his soul.Thus they plot together.4The best of them is like a brier,the most upright is worse than a thorn hedge.It is the day foretold by your watchmen,the day of your punishment.Now is the time of their confusion.5Do not trust any neighbor;do not put confidence in any friend.From even the woman who lies in your embraceguard the entrance to your mouth.6For a son dishonors his father,a daughter rises up against her mother,and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.A man's enemies are the people of his own house.7But as for me, I will look to Yahweh.I will wait for the God of my salvation;my God will hear me.

8Do not rejoice over me, my enemy.After I fall, I will rise.When I sit in darkness,Yahweh will be a light for me.9Because I sinned against Yahweh,I will bear his rageuntil he pleads my caseand executes judgment for me.He will bring me to the light,and I will see his righteousness.10Then my enemy will see it,and shame will cover the one who said to me,"Where is Yahweh your God?"My eyes will look at her;she will be trampled down like the mud in the streets.

11A day to build your walls will come;on that day the boundaries will be extended very far.12On that day your people will come to you,from Assyria and the cities in Egypt,from Egypt to the River,from sea to sea,and from mountain to mountain.13But the land will be desolatebecause of the people who are living there,because of the fruit of their actions.

14Shepherd your people with your rod,the flock of your inheritance.They dwell alone in a thicket,in the midst of a pastureland.Let them graze in Bashan and Gileadas in the old days.15As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,I will show them wonders.16The nations will see and be ashamedof all their power.They will put their hands on their mouths;their ears will be deaf.17They will lick the dust like a snake,like creatures that crawl on the earth.They will come out of their fortresses with fear;they will come with fear to you, Yahweh our God,and they will be afraid because of you.

18Who is a God like you—who takes away iniquity, who passes over the transgressionof the remnant of his inheritance?He does not keep his anger foreverbecause he delights in his covenant faithfulness.19You will again have compassion on us;you will trample our iniquities under your feet.You will throw all our sins into the depths of the sea.20You will give truth to Jacoband covenant faithfulness to Abraham,as you swore to our ancestors in ancient days.