

# OUTSTANDING PROPHECIES BY MICAH

BIBLE TEXT : Micah 1:1-6; 2:1,2,8-11; 3:9-12; 4:1-13; 5:2;  
6:1-8; 7:18-20.

LESSON 330 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### **Micah 1:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

<sup>3</sup> For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

<sup>5</sup> For the transgression of Jacob *is* all this, 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 as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof.

### **Micah 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

<sup>2</sup> And they covet fields, and take *them* by violence; and houses, and take *them* away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### **I God's Controversy with Israel**

1. His judgements are pronounced, Micah 1:1-6.
2. The sins of the people are enumerated, Micah 2:1,2,8-11.
3. Prophet, priest, and prince are taken to task, Micah 3:9-12;  
**Jeremiah 6:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

<sup>14</sup> They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace.

**Isaiah 1:23**

<sup>23</sup> Thy princes *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

**Titus 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

### **II The Revelation of God's Plans**

1. A promise of the Millennium is given, Micah 4:1-8;

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

<sup>2</sup> And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

<sup>3</sup> And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

<sup>4</sup> But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

<sup>2</sup> It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a

and his heritage.

### **Micah 2:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> Even of late my people is risen up as an enemy: ye pull off the robe with the garment from them that pass by securely as men averse from war.

<sup>9</sup> The women of my people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away my glory for ever.

<sup>10</sup> Arise ye, and depart; for this *is* not *your* rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy *you*, even with a sore destruction.

<sup>11</sup> If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, *saying*, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

### **Micah 3:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.

<sup>10</sup> They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

<sup>11</sup> The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, *Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed *as* a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

### **Micah 4:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

<sup>2</sup> And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob;

recompence; he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Revelation 20:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

2. The captivity of Judah and destruction of Zion's enemies are foretold, Micah 4:9-13.

3. A Ruler is to be born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2;

### **Matthew 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

### **Matthew 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

## **III A Call to Repentance**

1. God pleads with Israel, Micah 6:1-8;

### **Isaiah 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

2. He delighteth in mercy, Micah 7: 18-20;

### **Psalms 103:8-18**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his* anger for ever.

<sup>10</sup> He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

<sup>14</sup> For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days *are* as grass: as a flower of the field, so

and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>4</sup> But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*.

<sup>5</sup> For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

<sup>7</sup> And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

<sup>8</sup> And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Now why dost thou cry out aloud? *is there* no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

<sup>10</sup> Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go *even* to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.

he flourisheth.

<sup>16</sup> For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But the mercy of the LORD *is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*

<sup>18</sup> To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

### **NOTES:**

#### **Repentance**

When the priests and false prophets wanted to put Jeremiah to death for prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem, some of the elders came to Jeremiah's defence by citing the similar prophecy of Micah. "thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be ploughed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest." The elders then asked: "Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? Did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them?" (Jeremiah 26:18,19).

How often we see God's judgements set aside when men repent of their sin and call upon Him! When wicked Nineveh repented God spared their city. It matters not how vile a man's sin might be, God is merciful to save him if he will only repent. Israel provoked God continually; but when in their distress they called upon God, He always had mercy upon them. The judgements of God await the sinner today, but mercy is offered to all those who will repent before it is too late.

#### **Judgement Pronounced**

Micah comes forth with the stern announcement of God's judgements against sin, stating: "The LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth" (Micah 1:3). With very plain speech he points out: "For the transgression of Jacob is all this, 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?" These capitals of the country were also the headquarters for iniquity and idolatry. The fearless prophets of God have never failed to denounce sin nor tell where the blame lies. Samuel reproved Saul; Elijah pointed out Ahab as the troubler of Israel; and when David sinned, Nathan was there to say, "Thou art the man." Wickedness in the capital cities or among high officials does not escape the eyes of God, neither will the sins of a child go unpunished. The grasping landholder who cast the poor man out of the house in which his fathers dwelt, and evicted women and children from their homes; the soldier who took the clothes from innocent victims; the priests who taught for hire; the prophets who divined for money — all these came under the observation of the prophet and the condemnation of God. Neither did the princes that abhorred judgement, and perverted all equity, escape.

#### **Parallel Conditions**

Because of these sinful conditions Samaria was to be made "as an heap" and Zion "ploughed as a field." "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon" (Micah 2:10; 4:10). Although Babylon had not risen to power and was not yet a threat unto Judah, God through Micah predicted the Babylonian as well as the Assyrian captivity. The greed, corruption, and violence that brought judgement to Israel run a close parallel to our own political and social conditions



<sup>11</sup> Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.

<sup>12</sup> But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.

<sup>13</sup> Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.

### **Micah 5:2**

<sup>2</sup> But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

### **Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear ye now what the LORD saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

<sup>4</sup> For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.

today. How shall we escape if we neglect God's remedy for sin? Just as surely as Samaria was levelled by the Assyrians, and Jerusalem ruined by the Babylonians, this land of ours will be wasted by the wrath of an angry God unless we as a nation repent of our wickedness.

### **Tribulation and Restoration**

Although Micah dealt with sin and judgement, his writings have a strong appeal for repentance, and a promise of restoration. He spoke of the time when the "daughter of Zion" would be delivered from Babylon, and said, "There the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies" (Micah 4:10). His prophecies went beyond their return after seventy years of captivity, even down to a time yet to come when many nations shall be gathered against Zion to spoil her. "But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor" (Micah 4:12). Then addressing Zion the Lord encourages them: "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth" (Micah 4:13).

This impressive picture of throwing sheaves of wheat upon an ancient threshing floor and having the grain beaten out by the hoofs of the animals is no doubt referring to the day at the close of the Great Tribulation when God will "gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land" (Joel 3:2). The great King of kings and Lord of lords, with a vesture dipped in blood, shall ride forth with the armies of Heaven upon white horses, and Zion's enemies shall be destroyed. (**Revelation 19:14-21** <sup>14</sup> **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.** <sup>15</sup> **And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** <sup>16</sup> **And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.** <sup>17</sup> **And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;** <sup>18</sup> **That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.** <sup>19</sup> **And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.** <sup>20</sup> **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** <sup>21</sup> **And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**.) By living an overcoming Christian life now, you can be among the faithful who ride with Him in this white-robed army.

### **Millennium**

You can have a part in that kingdom, when Zion shall be the capital of the world for a thousand years, by being careful to serve Him in this present life. It will be worth the striving now in order to live in that day when the Lord "shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3). This is the time for which "the

<sup>6</sup> Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, *and* bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

### **Micah 7:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.

<sup>19</sup> He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup> Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

whole creation groaneth" (Romans 8:22); a time when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped" (Isaiah 35:5); and "the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). Are you preparing yourself to have a part in that kingdom?

### **Bethlehem**

Micah speaks of the birthplace of this great Ruler: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel' whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting." Not only does Micah give the name of the town in which Jesus was to be born, but he also declares his eternal existence. When the wise men inquired of them, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" the chief priests and scribes answered, "in Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet" (Matthew 2:2,5). These prophecies have been preserved through the years and have come down to us beautifully and accurately translated in the King James Version of the Bible.

### **Mercy**

God, who loved Israel and wanted them to enjoy the glorious privileges extended to them, pleaded with them to repent of their backslidings. "O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee?" (Micah 6:3). Thus would the God of love reason with all those who have turned from the truth. It was not their offerings, their wealth, or the giving of their first-born that the Lord required, but only "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly" with Him. Sin brings separation from God, takes one's name out of the Book of Life and his place from God's eternal kingdom; but repentance in time will restore that which was lost. "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy" (Micah 7:18).

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What is meant by the question, "What is the transgression of Jacob? is it not Samaria?" (Micah 1:5).
2. Name some of the sins that were condemned by the Prophet Micah.
3. Compare world conditions today with those described by Micah.
4. Of what period was the prophet speaking in chapter 4:2?
5. What is meant by the words, "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion"?
6. How did the Scribes of Jesus' time know where He was to be born?
7. What did the Lord give as His requirements of Israel? (See chapter 6.)
8. Describe some of the conditions during the Millennium.
9. What place will Israel hold during the Millennium?