### Micah

## Chapter 1

1The Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the The Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">MorasthiteThe Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">Morasthite</span> in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah) and said this about the things he saw going on in The Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">Morasthite</span> in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah) and said this about the things he saw going on in <span class="placename">SamariaThe Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">Morasthite</span> in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah) and said this about the things he saw going on in <span class="placename">Samaria</span> and in The Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">Morasthite</span> in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah) and said this about the things he saw going on in <span class="placename">Samaria</span> and in <span class="placename">JeruSalemThe Word of Jehovah came to MicAh the <span class="placename">Morasthite</span> in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah) and said this about the things he saw going on in <span class="placename">Samaria</span> and in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>.  
  
 2‘Hear these words, O you peoples;  
 Also pay attention, you lands  
 And those who are dwelling within you!  
 For, from His Most Holy [Place],  
 Jehovah will now testify.  
  
 3‘{Look!} Jehovah will come from His place  
 And go down upon your high places,  
 Then seat Himself in the heights.  
  
 4‘The mountains will shake underneath Him,  
 And like beeswax in fire, the valleys will melt,  
 Then flow like water that rolls down a slope.  
  
 5‘Yes, He will do all these things  
 Because of Jacob’s irreverent ways  
 And because of the sins of the house of IsraEl.  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘Isn’t ‘Isn’t <span class="placename">Samaria‘Isn’t <span class="placename">Samaria</span> the irreverence of Jacob  
 And isn’t And isn’t <span class="placename">JudahAnd isn’t <span class="placename">Judah</span>’s sin, And isn’t <span class="placename">Judah</span>’s sin, <span class="placename">JeruSalemAnd isn’t <span class="placename">Judah</span>’s sin, <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>?  
  
 6‘So I’ll turn ‘So I’ll turn <span class="placename">Samaria‘So I’ll turn <span class="placename">Samaria</span> into a barn  
 Where the fruits of the fields can be stored  
 Along with the [grapes] of the vineyards.  
 I’ll tear down her stones in great chaos,  
 And her foundations, I’ll expose.  
  
 7‘I’ll cut her carved idols to pieces;  
 Her temple whores, I’ll burn in a fire;  
 And I’ll appoint her idols to extinction.  
 For she hired whores and gathered them there…  
 So the wages of whores are what I’ll destroy.  
  
 8‘For this, she’ll wail and beat on her breasts…  
 She will go barefoot and naked…  
 She’ll beat on her chest like a dragon,  
 And mourn like chained demon’s daughters.  
  
 9‘This calamity upon her will surely arrive;  
 For she went to For she went to <span class="placename">JudahFor she went to <span class="placename">Judah</span> and For she went to <span class="placename">Judah</span> and <span class="placename">JeruSalemFor she went to <span class="placename">Judah</span> and <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>  
 And touched the gates of my people.’  
  
 10‘Now, those in ‘Now, those in <span class="placename">Gath‘Now, those in <span class="placename">Gath</span> shouldn’t feel special,  
 Nor should those who are living in Nor should those who are living in <span class="placename">BakaIm Nor should those who are living in <span class="placename">BakaIm</span>…  
 And don’t laugh as you try to rebuild your homes,  
 For the land will be strewn with your laughter,  
 11And nothing good will come to your towns.  
  
 ‘Then, those in ‘Then, those in <span class="placename">ZaAnan ‘Then, those in <span class="placename">ZaAnan</span> will beat on their breasts  
 On behalf of the houses next door…  
 They’ll be grieved by the things that will happen to you.  
  
 12‘For then, who’ll console her when she is sad  
 Over the bad things Jehovah will send,  
 Which will reach all the way to Which will reach all the way to <span class="placename">JeruSalem Which will reach all the way to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>’s gates?  
  
 13‘They’ll hear the sounds of chariots and riders  
 [Attacking the City] of [Attacking the City] of <span class="placename">LachIsh [Attacking the City] of <span class="placename">LachIsh</span>.  
 For, they’re the ones who’ve been taking the lead  
 In the sins of the daughters of In the sins of the daughters of <span class="placename">Zion In the sins of the daughters of <span class="placename">Zion</span>…  
 All of IsraEl’s godless deeds can be found there!  
  
 14‘Because of this, they’ll be carried away  
 And become the inheritance of And become the inheritance of <span class="placename">Gath And become the inheritance of <span class="placename">Gath</span>…  
 Yes, even their poorest of homes.  
  
 15‘There, ‘There, <span class="placename">IsraEl‘There, <span class="placename">IsraEl</span>’s kings won’t be valued…  
 The inheritance of The inheritance of <span class="placename">Gath The inheritance of <span class="placename">Gath</span>, they’ll become.  
 The people of The people of <span class="placename">LachIsh The people of <span class="placename">LachIsh</span> will then be their [slaves].  
 And off to And off to <span class="placename">AdulLam And off to <span class="placename">AdulLam</span>, they’ll carry  
 The glory of IsraEl’s daughters.  
  
 16‘So, shave [the heads of] your beloved young…  
 Make them as bald as the vultures;  
 For, they’ll all be carried away!’

### Micah

## Chapter 2

1‘When they came here, they were looking for trouble  
 And doing what’s bad in their beds.  
 They did it all during the daytime,  
 And they wouldn’t raise a hand to Jehovah.  
  
 2‘Then, because they desired more fields,  
 They plundered orphans and tyrannized homes…  
 They plundered the people along with their homes…  
 Both the men and the things they’d inherit.  
  
 3‘It’s because of this, that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Against their tribe, I’m bringing what’s bad,  
 And thereafter, they won’t lift their necks  
 Or in any way walk erect…  
 Yes for them, it’ll be a very bad time!  
  
 4‘In that day, they’ll be saying these words…  
 They’ll raise this lament in a song:  
  
 ‘In our miserable condition, we knew misery;  
 For our people were [led off in] lines,  
 And no one [came here] to stop it  
 Or to bargain for their return;  
 So their fields were thereafter divided [as loot].’  
  
 5‘Now, no one will measure allotments  
 For those in the Lord’s congregation.  
 6You’ll weep and cry for these things;  
 But I won’t remove all your scorn.  
  
 7‘Then, this is what they’ll say about you:  
  
 ‘Because the house of Jacob provoked  
 Jehovah’s Spirit to rage,  
 These are the things that He did;  
 For His words and His ways are all straight and good!’  
  
 8‘[Throughout the years], my people have shown  
 A hatred and resistance to peace.  
 So they’ve flayed the skin [of those passing by],  
 [And brought upon themselves] the conflict of war.  
  
 9‘Now the leaders of my people will be driven from their homes…  
 They’ll be pushed away, because they’re so bad!  
 So, flee to the mountains of the ages,  
 10Since for you, there’ll be no rest,  
 Because you’re corrupt and unclean!  
  
 11‘So you’ll run when no one is chasing,  
 Because of your lying spirit,  
 Which trickles upon you like the wine and strong drink  
 That you’ve gained from the sweat of your people.  
  
 12‘But, after some time, they’ll return…  
 I’ll gather Jacob along with the rest,  
 And I’ll search for IsraEl’s remnants…  
 I’ll collect them and I’ll return them  
 Like sheep that have gone through hard times…  
 They’ll jump away from those people,  
 And in their own pastures, they’ll live as one flock.  
  
 13‘They’ll [run] through the breach that’s before them,  
 For the gate will be cut so they can escape.  
 And before them, will travel their king…  
 Yes, they’ll be led by their Lord!’

### Micah

## Chapter 3

1[‘And God continues:]  
  
 ‘So listen, you head ones of Jacob,  
 And the rest that are left of IsraEl’s house!  
  
 ‘When will you learn to do what’s fair?  
 2Since you’ve hated what’s good and searched for what’s bad;  
 They’ll reach out for you and tear off your skin,  
 Then rip the flesh from your bones,  
 3The same as you’ve eaten the flesh of my people  
 And flayed off all of their skin…  
 Then you broke their bones as flesh for the pot,  
 And as meat for the cauldron!’  
  
4[Micah now explains:]  
  
 ‘So, you’ll cry out to Jehovah,  
 But He won’t listen to you…  
 He’ll just turn His face at that time,  
 Because of the wicked things that you’ve done.  
  
 5‘So, to the prophets, Jehovah declares  
 (To those misleading His people…  
 Those clenching their teeth as they proclaim peace  
 When [God hasn’t put] any [words] in their mouths):  
  
 ‘A holy war, I’ll be sending to you  
 6Because [you’ve told them] such things.  
  
 ‘Then you’ll see no more visions during the nights…  
 You’ll just see darkness (not light).  
 For the sun won’t rise upon you prophets,  
 And the days will darken before you.  
  
 7‘Disgrace will then come to those who dream dreams,  
 And those telling the future will be ridiculed.  
 About them, all will speak badly,  
 And no one will listen to the things that they say.’  
  
8[Yet Micah says:]  
  
 ‘However, I’ll be filled  
 With the strength and the Breath of Jehovah,  
 As well as with His justice and might,  
 So I can report the irreverence of Jacob  
 And speak to IsraEl about all their sins!  
  
 9‘Therefore, listen to this, O leaders of Jacob,  
 And you remnants of the house of IsraEl…  
 You who hate what’s fair and twist what’s straight…  
 10You who’ve built Zion on blood  
 And filled JeruSalem with injustice!  
  
 11‘For your leaders take bribes when they judge;  
 Your priests require a wage for replies;  
 And your prophets ask for silver when they prophesy.  
 Yet they still rest upon Jehovah and say:  
  
 ‘Isn’t Jehovah among us?  
 No way will He bring bad things on us!’  
  
 12‘And it’s for all of these reasons  
 That Zion will be plowed like a field...  
 JeruSalem will become empty barns;  
 And the Temple Mount, just a place in the woods!’

### Micah

## Chapter 4

1‘But, in the last days,  
 They will see the Mountain of Jehovah  
 Sitting above the rest of the mountains,  
 Raised higher than all of the hills,  
 And to it, all the peoples will run.  
  
 2‘Many nations will go there and say:  
  
 ‘Let’s ascend the Mountain of Jehovah  
 And enter the [Temple] of Jacob’s God.  
 For there, He will show us His ways,  
 And we’ll thereafter walk in His paths!’  
  
 ‘For, Laws will come out of ‘For, Laws will come out of <span class="placename">Zion ‘For, Laws will come out of <span class="placename">Zion</span>…  
 And from And from <span class="placename">JeruSalem And from <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, the Word of Jehovah  
 3Will serve as judge between peoples,  
 And make decisions among distant tribes.  
  
 ‘Then they’ll cut their swords into plows,  
 And [they’ll beat] their spears into sickles.  
 Nation won’t rise against nation again,  
 Nor will they learn war anymore.  
  
 4‘Under their own grapevines, each person will sit,  
 And they’ll rest beneath their own fig trees…  
 For, none will make them afraid anymore.’  
  
 ‘This was said by the mouth of Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 5‘And although other people may go their own way;  
 You’ll walk in the Name of your God  
 From the present and into the ages.  
  
 6‘And in that day, says Jehovah,  
 I’ll regather all those who were broken  
 (The ones whom I had once discarded),  
 And I’ll welcome back those whom I’ve pushed away.  
  
 7‘Yes, those who are broken, I’ll welcome,  
 And I’ll make a great nation of them once again…  
 Of those whom I once pushed away!  
 And thereafter, and into the ages,  
 Their Lord will rule from Mount Zion.’  
  
8[Micah then says:]  
  
 ‘But now, upon you, O tower of the flock…  
 Yes you, O JeruSalem’s daughter  
 (You austere offspring of Zion);  
 The foremost of Babylon’s kings  
 Will come here and enter your [gates]!  
  
 9‘For, why did you learn to do such bad things…  
 Wasn’t there a king here among you,  
 And has all good council now perished?  
  
 ‘So, pangs are what you’ll have to endure  
 Like a woman who’s about to give birth.  
 10But hang on and take courage, O daughter of Zion,  
 As [a woman] who’s giving birth!  
  
 ‘For what’s coming to you is a city  
 That will set up its camps in your plains…  
 And then, to Babylon, they’ll take you.  
 But your God, Jehovah, will save you from there,  
 And ransom you from your enemies’ hands.  
  
 11‘Now, many nations have come against you,  
 And this is what they’re saying:  
  
 ‘Our eyes will rejoice as we gaze on Zion!’  
  
 12‘But they don’t know the ways of Jehovah,  
 And His council, they don’t comprehend.  
 For like sheaves [of grain], they’ll be gathered,  
 And on a threshing floor, they’ll be piled,  
 13So that you can thresh them, O daughter of Zion!  
  
 ‘For I’ll turn your horns into iron,  
 And I’ll turn your hoofs into brass.  
 Then, I’ll dissolve many peoples,  
 And you’ll carry all their abundance  
 As well as their strength to the Lord of the earth.’

### Micah

## Chapter 5

1[Micah continues:]  
  
 ‘Now the daughter of ‘Now the daughter of <span class="placename">Zion ‘Now the daughter of <span class="placename">Zion</span> has a reason to fear,  
 For upon her, He’s decreed war,  
 And they’ll strike IsraEl’s tribes on the jaw!  
  
 2‘Then from you, O ‘Then from you, O <span class="placename">BethLehem‘Then from you, O <span class="placename">BethLehem</span> of ‘Then from you, O <span class="placename">BethLehem</span> of <span class="placename">EphRatha‘Then from you, O <span class="placename">BethLehem</span> of <span class="placename">EphRatha</span>  
 (The few among the thousands of (The few among the thousands of <span class="placename">Judah (The few among the thousands of <span class="placename">Judah</span>),  
 Will come a man who’ll be IsraEl’s king…  
 One whose [roots] are from the most ancient times  
 And from the days of the ages.  
  
 3‘And because of this, he’ll appoint her  
 A time that will be [like the giving] of birth.  
 For thereafter, she’ll [really] give birth  
 To the remnant of those who are brothers,  
 And to the sons of IsraEl, they’ll return.  
  
 4‘Yes, by the strength of Jehovah,  
 A shepherd will rise to [watch over] them,  
 And they’ll bask in the glory of the Name of their God,  
 Which will then become known to the ends of the earth.  
  
 5‘And this is [the sign that there’ll be] peace:  
 When the Assyrians arrive in your land  
 And they climb onto your place.  
 But seven shepherds will then rise against them  
 [And whip them] with the eight strokes of men.  
  
 6‘They’ll shepherd ‘They’ll shepherd <span class="placename">Assyria‘They’ll shepherd <span class="placename">Assyria</span> with a broadsword,  
 And And <span class="placename">the land of NimRod And <span class="placename">the land of NimRod</span> [will serve as] her grave.  
 For, from the For, from the <span class="placename">Assyrians For, from the <span class="placename">Assyrians</span>, He’ll save you,  
 When against your land, they’ve ascended,  
 And when they’ve crossed over your borders.  
  
 7‘Thereafter, the few of Jacob that remain  
 Will [be scattered] among many peoples.  
 But, like the dew that falls from the Lord,  
 And like the lambs [that are fed] on wild grass;  
 They’ll be gathered by no one,  
 Nor before sons of men, will they stand.  
  
 8‘And although the remnant of Jacob  
 Will be [scattered] among all the nations  
 And dwell among many peoples;  
 They’ll be like lions among cattle …  
 As bear cubs among flocks of sheep.  
  
 ‘Then they’ll go through and scatter their prey…  
 None of which will be saved.  
 9Then they’ll lift their hands against their opponents,  
 And their enemies will all be destroyed!  
  
 10‘But [before] that day,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘I’ll destroy all your horses and chariots…  
 11All the cities in your land will wiped away,  
 And I’ll remove all your forts.  
  
 12‘From your hands, I’ll wipe out your potions,  
 And there’ll be no fortune tellers among you.  
 13I’ll also destroy all the idols you’ve carved  
 And remove the sacred stones from your midst…  
 You’ll [no longer] bow to the works of your hands.  
  
 14‘I’ll cut down all of your sacred poles  
 And wipe away all of your cities.  
 15Then, in My anger and rage,  
 I’ll send My vengeance to the rest of the nations,  
 Because they too failed to listen!’

### Micah

## Chapter 6

1‘So, hear indeed, what Jehovah has said!  
 Arise and plead with the mountains…  
 Let all the hills hear what He’s said!  
  
 2‘Yes, listen, O mountains, to the judgments of God…  
 You foundations of the earth and its valleys!  
 For between Jehovah and His people  
 There’s a case to be tried…  
 And with And with <span class="placename">IsraEl And with <span class="placename">IsraEl</span>, He’s going to war!  
  
 3[‘For God asks:]  
  
 ‘O My people, what did I do?  
 Tell Me what trouble I’ve caused you!  
 4From the land of From the land of <span class="placename">EgyptFrom the land of <span class="placename">Egypt</span>, I led you…  
 From the house of slaves, I ransomed you back,  
 And before your face, I had sent you  
 MiriAm, Aaron, and Moses!  
  
 5‘Remember the plans that ‘Remember the plans that <span class="placename">MoAb‘Remember the plans that <span class="placename">MoAb</span>’s King Balak  
 Had once made against you,  
 And the answers that BalaAm (son of BeOr)  
 Was given from Was given from <span class="placename">ShittimWas given from <span class="placename">Shittim</span> to Was given from <span class="placename">Shittim</span> to <span class="placename">GilGalWas given from <span class="placename">Shittim</span> to <span class="placename">GilGal</span>,  
 So he’d know the righteous ways of the Lord.  
  
6[And Micah comments:]  
  
 ‘Yes, how can you conquer Jehovah?  
 Can you snatch Him down from the heights?  
 With your whole burnt-offerings, can you beat Him,  
 Or with [the blood of] 1-year-old calves? No!  
  
 7‘Will Jehovah [be swayed] by 1,000 male sheep  
 Or 10,000 one-year-old calves? No!  
 For your sins, can you offer your first-born? No!  
 Can you offer the first fruits that come from your bellies  
 To cover [the sins] in your lives? No!  
  
 8‘To you, He’s explained it, O man…  
 All the things that are righteous.  
 And all that Jehovah requires  
 Is for you to be fair and love mercy,  
 And to be ready to walk with your God!  
  
 9‘So the voice of Jehovah is calling to you,  
 And those fearing His Name will be saved.  
 So, listen to this, O you tribes,  
 [For God says:]  
  
 ‘Who will be the adornment of your cities?  
 10Won’t the homes of Law breakers be burned  
 Along with [the houses] of those loving crimes…  
 All the insolent and the unrighteous?  
  
 11‘Will I overlook all of your wicked scales  
 And your bags of deceptive weights?  
 12Will your irreverent ways be covered by wealth?  
 And all you liars that live there;  
 Will your [wicked] tongues [bring praise] from your mouths? No!  
  
 13‘For your sins, I’ll torment you to extinction,  
 14Then you’ll eat and never be filled.  
 I’ll banish you, and you’ll be lost  
 (No way will you be preserved);  
 And the survivors, I’ll hand to the broadsword.  
  
 15‘Then, although you may plant, you won’t reap;  
 And although you’ll press olives, you won’t anoint,  
 Nor will you drink any wine…  
 Since the Laws of My people will be wiped away.  
  
 16‘For the rules of [IsraElite King] OmRi, are what you’ve chosen,  
 As well as the deeds of the house of [IsraElite King] Ahab.  
 Yes, you’ve chosen their plans  
 So you wouldn’t be laughed at by others…  
 Thus, I’m bringing extinction upon you!’

### Micah

## Chapter 7

1‘I’m like a man who gleans stubble in the harvest,  
 Or one who gleans grapes after they’re gone…  
 Those ripe ones for which my soul craves (woe is me)!  
  
 2‘For the upright have all been wiped from the land…  
 Those who walk straight, no longer exist,  
 And all righteous blood has been squeezed  
 By the oppression of their neighbors,  
 3Whose hands are doing whatever is bad.  
  
 ‘Your rulers now ask you for gifts  
 And your judges [give rulings] for bribes…  
 Yet, this is what your souls have wanted!  
  
 4‘So He’ll take away all your good things  
 Like a moth chewing through woolen clothes  
 [On behalf of those] found walking straight lines  
 In the day that they’re being inspected.  
  
 ‘Yes, woe to you, for your punishment is due,  
 And soon you all will be weeping!  
  
 5‘So, don’t confide in your friends,  
 And put no hope in your leaders!  
 Watch out for the one who sleeps in your bed…  
 To her, show nothing at all!  
  
 6‘For, sons will dishonor their fathers,  
 And daughters will oppose their own mothers…  
 It is daughters-in-law against mothers-in-law,  
 And your enemies will be those in your own homes.’  
  
 7‘But, I’ll look to my Lord…  
 On my Savior, Jehovah, I’ll wait,  
 And my God will listen to me.  
  
 8‘So, enemies of mine, don’t rejoice,  
 For although I’ve fallen, I’ll rise again.  
 And if I must sit in the darkness,  
 Jehovah will provide me with light.  
  
 9‘Yes, I’ll endure the rage of Jehovah;  
 For against Him, I’m also a sinner.  
 But I’ll wait until He sends justice…  
 Until He shows me His judgments  
 And leads me into the light,  
 Where I’ll look to His righteous ways.  
  
 10‘Then, upon my enemies, I’ll gaze,  
 For then, they must bear all their shame;  
 Since they’re the ones who once asked me:  
  
 ‘So, where is Jehovah, your God?’  
  
 [‘But God says]:  
  
 ‘My eyes have noticed these things,  
 So I’ll trample on her like mud in the streets…  
 11Like mortar on bricks, she’ll be wiped away,  
 And her rules will be gone in that day.  
  
 12‘Your cities will then all be leveled  
 And by the And by the <span class="placename">AssyriansAnd by the <span class="placename">Assyrians</span>, they’ll be subdivided.  
 Yes your fortified cities will be given away  
 From From <span class="placename">TyreFrom <span class="placename">Tyre</span> down to the [From <span class="placename">Tyre</span> down to the [<span class="placename">NileFrom <span class="placename">Tyre</span> down to the [<span class="placename">Nile</span>] river…  
 From mountain to mountain and sea to sea!  
  
 13‘For the land will all be destroyed,  
 Along with [the people] who live there…  
 It’s the fruitage of what they’ve done!’  
  
 14[‘O God,]  
  
 ‘Tend Your people with Your mighty rod;  
 For, they’re Your inherited sheep…  
 May they camp all alone in the woods  
 And [on the sides] of [Mount] And [on the sides] of [Mount] <span class="placename">CarMel And [on the sides] of [Mount] <span class="placename">CarMel</span>!  
  
 ‘In ‘In <span class="placename">BaShan ‘In <span class="placename">BaShan</span> and ‘In <span class="placename">BaShan</span> and <span class="placename">GileAd ‘In <span class="placename">BaShan</span> and <span class="placename">GileAd</span>, please feed them  
 As You did for them back in that age  
 15When [You led] them from When [You led] them from <span class="placename">EgyptWhen [You led] them from <span class="placename">Egypt</span>.  
  
 16[‘And God replies:]  
  
 ‘Yes, wonderful things, I’ll show them,  
 Which the nations will see in disgrace.  
 For [the nations will lose] all their strength…  
 They’ll place their hands over their mouths  
 And they’ll cover their ears.  
 17Then they’ll lick the dust just like snakes  
 That slither along on the ground.  
 And because of this, they’ll then be confused.’  
  
 ‘Yes by God, they’ll be amazed…  
 But, they must learn how to fear Him!  
 18For, to what other god can He be compared?  
  
  
 [‘O God,]  
  
 ‘As You remove the unrighteous,  
 [Please overlook] the irreverence  
 Of Your inherited ones who are left…  
 Hold back Your rage for the things that You’ve seen,  
 And please show mercy upon us!  
  
 19‘Please turn around and show pity on us,  
 But, sink our unrighteous ways…  
 Cast our sins into the depths of the seas.  
  
 20‘Then to Jacob, please send what’s true,  
 And on AbraHam’s [offspring], please show mercy,  
 As You swore in Your oath to our fathers.’

# Nahum

Nahum is the record of a prophecy by the Prophet Nahum.  
  
It was written sometime during the mid-7th Century BCE, and is a proclamation against the Assyrians (the world empire of that time), who had destroyed the northern 10-tribe Kingdom of Israel in the previous century.  
  
Nahum refers to himself as an Elkoshite, which may be a reference to the City of Alqosh in Assyria, where the Bible tells us that the 10 tribes of IsraEl had been relocated by the Assyrians in the 8th Century BCE. Interestingly, Kurds live in that area today, and DNA evidence shows that Kurds are closely related to modern Jews.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.