

MICAH

1 THE word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. / [2] Hear, ye peoples, all of you, / Hearken, O earth, and all that therein is; / And let the Lord God be witness against you, / The Lord from His holy temple. / [3] For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of His place, / And will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. / [4] And the mountains shall be molten under Him, / And the valleys shall be cleft, / As wax before the fire, / As waters that are poured down a steep place. / [5] 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? / [6] Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the field, / A place for the planting of vineyards; / And I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, / And I will uncover the foundations thereof. / [7] And all her graven images shall be beaten to pieces, / And all her hires shall be burned with fire, / And all her idols will I lay desolate; / For of the hire of a harlot hath she gathered them, / And unto the hire of a harlot shall they return. / [8] For this will I wail and howl, / I will go stripped and naked; / I will make a wailing like the jackals, / And a mourning like the ostriches. / [9] For her wound is incurable; / For it is come even unto Judah; / It reacheth unto the gate of my people, even to Jerusalem. / [10] Tell it not in Gath, / Weep not at all; / At Beth-le-aphrah roll thyself in the dust. / [11] Pass ye away, O inhabitant of / Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; / The inhabitant of Zaanan is not come forth; / The wailing of Beth-ezel shall take from you the standing-place thereof. / [12] For the inhabitant of Maroth waiteth anxiously for good; / Because evil is come down from the LORD unto the gate of Jerusalem. / [13] Bind the chariots to the swift steeds, / O inhabitant of Lachish; / She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion; / For the transgressions of

Israel are found in thee. / [14] Therefore shalt thou give a parting gift to Moresheth-gath; / The houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing unto the kings of Israel. / [15] I will yet bring unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah, him that shall possess thee; / The glory of Israel shall come even unto Adullam. / [16] Make thee bald, and poll thee for the children of thy delight; / Enlarge thy baldness as the vulture; / For they are gone into captivity from thee.

2 Woe to them that devise iniquity / And work evil upon their beds! / When the morning is light, they execute it, / Because it is in the power of their hand. / [2] And they covet fields, and seize them; / And houses, and take them away; / Thus they oppress a man and his house, / Even a man and his heritage.

[3] Therefore thus saith the LORD: / Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, / From which ye shall not remove your necks, / Neither shall ye walk upright; for it shall be an evil time. / [4] In that day shall they take up a parable against you, / And lament with a doleful lamentation, and say: / 'We are utterly ruined; / He changeth the portion of my people; / How doth he remove it from me! / Instead of restoring our fields, he divideth them.' / Therefore thou shalt have none that shall cast the line by lot / In the congregation of the LORD. / [6] 'Preach ye not', they preach; / 'They shall not preach of these things, / That they shall not take shame.' / [7] Do I change, O house of Jacob? / Is the spirit of the LORD straitened? / Are these His doings? / Do not My words do good to him that walketh uprightly? / [8] But of late My people is risen up as an enemy; / With the garment ye strip also the mantle / From them that pass by securely, so that they are as men returning from war. / [9] The women of My people ye cast out from their pleasant houses; / From their young children ye take away My glory for ever. / [10] Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your resting-place; / Because of the uncleanness thereof, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction. / [11] If a man walking in wind and false-hood do lie: / 'I will preach unto thee of wine and of strong drink'; / He shall even be the preacher of this people. / [12] I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; / I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; / I will render them all as sheep in a fold; / As a flock in the midst of their pasture, / They shall make great noise by reason

of the multitude of men. / [13] The breaker is gone up before them; / They have broken forth and passed on, / By the gate, and are gone out thereat; / And their king is passed on before them, / And the LORD at the head of them.

3 And I said: / Hear, I pray you, ye heads of Jacob, / And rulers of the house of Israel: / Is it not for you to know justice? / [2] Who hate the good, and love the evil; / Who rob their skin from off them, / And their flesh from off their bones, / [3] Who also eat the flesh of my people, / And flay their skin from off them, / And break their bones; / Yea, they chop them in pieces, as that which is in the pot, / And as flesh within the caldron. / [4] Then shall they cry unto the LORD, / But He will not answer them; / Yea, He will hide His face from them at that time, / According as they have wrought evil in their doings.

[5] Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people to err; / That cry: 'Peace', when their teeth have any thing to bite; / And whoso putteth not into their mouths, / They even prepare war against him: / [6] Therefore it shall be night unto you, that ye shall have no vision; / And it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; / And the sun shall go down upon the prophets, / And the day shall be black over them. / [7] And the seers shall be put to shame, and the diviners confounded; / Yea, they shall all cover their upper lips; / For there shall be no answer of God. / [8] But I truly am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, / And of justice, and of might, / To declare unto Jacob his transgression, / And to Israel his sin. / [9] Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, / And rulers of the house of Israel, / That abhor justice, and pervert all equity; / [10] That build up Zion with blood, / And Jerusalem with iniquity. / [11] 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 in the midst of us? / No evil shall come upon us?' / [12] 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 a forest.

4 But in the end of days it shall come to pass, /
That the mountain of the LORD's house shall
be established as the top of the mountains, / And
it shall be exalted above the hills; / And peoples
shall flow unto it. / [2] And many nations shall
go and say: / 'Come ye, and let us go up to the
mountain of the LORD, / And to the house of
the God of Jacob; / And He will teach us of His
ways, / And we will walk in His paths'; / For out
of Zion shall go forth the law, / And the word
of the LORD from Jerusalem. / [3] And He shall
judge between many peoples, / And shall decide
concerning mighty nations afar off; / And they
shall beat their swords into plowshares, / And
their spears into pruning-hooks, / Nation shall
not lift up sword against nation, / Neither shall
they learn war any more. / [4] 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. /
[5] For let all the peoples walk each one in the
name of its god, / But we will walk in the name
of the / LORD our God for ever and ever. / [6] In
that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that
halteth, / And I will gather her that is driven
away, / And her that I have afflicted; / [7] And
I will make her that halted a remnant, / And her
that was cast far off a mighty nation; / And the
LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from
thenceforth even for ever.

[8] And thou, Migdal-eder, the hill of the
daughter of Zion, / Unto thee shall it come; /
Yea, the former dominion shall come, / The
kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem. / [9] Now
why dost thou cry out aloud? / Is there no King
in thee, / Is thy Counsellor perished, / That
pangs have taken hold of thee as of a woman
in travail? / [10] 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 shalt dwell in the field, / And shalt
come even unto Babylon; / There shalt thou be
rescued; / There shall the LORD redeem thee
from the hand of thine enemies. / [11] And
now many nations are assembled against thee, /
That say: 'Let her be defiled, and let our eye
gaze upon Zion.' / [12] But they know not the
thoughts of the LORD, / Neither understand they
His counsel; / For He hath gathered them as the
sheaves to the threshing-floor. / [13] Arise and
thresh, O daughter of Zion; / For I will make thy
horn iron, / And I will make thy hoofs brass; /
And thou shalt beat in pieces many peoples, /

And thou shalt devote their gain unto the LORD, /
And their substance unto the Lord of the whole
earth. / [14] Now shalt thou gather thyself in
troops, O daughter of troops, / They have laid
siege against us; / They smite the judge of Israel
with a rod upon the cheek.

5 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, / Which
art little to be among the thousands of
Judah, / Out of thee shall one come forth unto
Me that is to be ruler in Israel; / Whose goings
forth are from of old, from ancient days. /
[2] Therefore will He give them up, / Until the
time that she who travaileth hath brought forth; /
Then the residue of his brethren shall return with
the children of Israel. / [3] And he shall stand,
and shall feed his flock in the strength of the
LORD, / In the majesty of the name of the LORD
his God; / And they shall abide, for then shall he
be great unto the ends of the earth. / [4] And this
shall be peace: / When the Assyrian shall come
into our land, / And when he shall tread in our
palaces, / Then shall we raise against him seven
shepherds, / And eight princes among men. /
[5] And they shall waste the land of Assyria
with the sword, / And the land of Nimrod with
the keen-edged sword; / And he shall deliver
us from the / Assyrian, when he cometh into
our land, / And when he treadeth within our
border. / [6] And the remnant of Jacob shall be
in the midst of many peoples, / As dew from
the LORD, as showers upon the grass, / That are
not looked for from man, / Nor awaited at the
hands of the sons of men. / [7] And the remnant
of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst
of many peoples, / As a lion among the beasts
of the forest, / As a young lion among the flocks
of sheep, / Who, if he go through, treadeth
down and teareth in pieces, / And there is none
to deliver. / [8] Let Thy hand be lifted up above
Thine adversaries, / And let all Thine enemies
be cut off.

[9] And it shall come to pass in that day,
saith the LORD, / That I will cut off thy horses
out of the midst of thee, / And will destroy
thy chariots; / [10] And I will cut off the cities
of thy land, / And will throw down all thy
strongholds; / [11] And I will cut off witchcrafts
out of thy hand; / And thou shalt have no more
soothsayers; / [12] And I will cut off thy graven
images and thy pillars out of the midst of thee; /
And thou shalt no more worship the work of thy
hands. / [13] And I will pluck up thy Asherim out

of the midst of thee; / And I will destroy thine enemies. / [14] And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the nations, / Because they hearkened not.

6 Hear ye now what the LORD saith / Arise, contend thou before the mountains, / And let the hills hear thy voice. / [2] Hear, O ye mountains, the LORD's controversy, / And ye enduring rocks, the foundations of the earth; / For the LORD hath a controversy with His people, / And He will plead with Israel. / [3] O My people, what have I done unto thee? / And wherein have I wearied thee? / Testify against Me. / [4] For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, / And redeemed thee out of the house of bondage, / And I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. / [5] O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab devised, / And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him; / From Shittim unto Gilgal, / That ye may know the righteous acts of the LORD. / [6] 'Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, / And bow myself before God on high? / Shall I come before Him with burnt-offerings, / With calves of a year old? / [7] Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, / With ten thousands of rivers of oil? / Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, / The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' / [8] It hath been told thee, O man, what is good, / And what the LORD doth require of thee / Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

[9] Hark! the LORD crieth unto the city— / And it is wisdom to have regard for Thy name— / Hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it. / [10] Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, / And the scant measure that is abominable? / [11] 'Shall I be pure with wicked balances, / And with a bag of deceitful weights?' / [12] For the rich men thereof are full of violence, / And the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, / And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth / [13] Therefore I also do smite thee with a grievous wound; / I do make thee desolate because of thy sins. / [14] Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; / And thy sickness shall be in thine inward parts. / And thou shalt conceive, but shalt not bring forth; / And whomsoever thou bringest forth will I give up to the sword. / [15] Thou shalt sow, but shalt not reap; / Thou shalt tread the olives, but shalt not anoint thee with oil, / And the vintage, but shalt not drink the

wine. / [16] For the statutes of Omri are kept, /
And all the works of the house of Ahab, / And
ye walk in their counsels; / That I may make thee
an astonishment, / And the inhabitants thereof a
hissing, / And ye shall bear the reproach of My
people.

7 Woe is me! for I am as the last of the
summer fruits, / As the grape gleanings of
the vintage; / There is no cluster to eat; / Nor
first-ripe fig which my soul desireth. / [2] The
godly man is perished out of the earth, / And
the upright among men is no more; / They all
lie in wait for blood; / They hunt every man his
brother with a net. / [3] Their hands are upon
that which is evil to do it diligently; / The prince
asketh, and the judge is ready for a reward; / And
the great man, he uttereth the evil desire of his
soul; / Thus they weave it together. / [4] The best
of them is as a brier; / The most upright is worse
than a thorn hedge; / The day of thy watchmen,
even thy visitation, is come; / Now shall be their
perplexity / [5] Trust ye not in a friend, / Put ye
not confidence in a familiar friend; / Keep the
doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy
bosom / [6] For the son dishonoureth the father, /
The daughter riseth up against her mother, / The
daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; / A
man's enemies are the men of his own house. /
[7] 'But as for me, I will look unto the LORD; /
I will wait for the God of my salvation; / My
God will hear me. / [8] Rejoice not against me,
O mine enemy; / Though I am fallen, I shall
arise; / Though I sit in darkness, the LORD is a
light unto me. / [9] I will bear the indignation of
the LORD, / Because I have sinned against Him; /
Until He plead my cause, and execute judgment
for me; / He will bring me forth to the light, /
And I shall behold His righteousness. / [10] Then
mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover
her; / Who said unto me: Where is the LORD
thy God? / Mine eyes shall gaze upon her; /
Now shall she be trodden down as the mire of
the streets.' / [11] 'The day for building thy walls,
even that day, shall be far removed.' / [12] There
shall be a day when they shall come unto thee, /
From Assyria even to the cities of Egypt, / And
from Egypt even to the River, / And from sea to
sea, and from mountain to mountain. / [13] And
the land shall be desolate for them that dwell
therein, / Because of the fruit of their doings. /
[14] Tend Thy people with Thy staff, the flock of
Thy heritage, / That dwell solitarily, as a forest
in the midst of the fruitful field; / Let them feed

in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. /
[15] 'As in the days of thy coming forth out of the
land of Egypt / Will I show unto him marvelous
things.' / [16] The nations shall see and be put
to shame for all their might; / They shall lay
their hand upon their mouth, / Their ears shall
be deaf. / [17] They shall lick the dust like a
serpent; / Like crawling things of the earth they
shall come trembling out of their close places; /
They shall come with fear unto the LORD our
God, / And shall be afraid because of Thee. /
[18] Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth
the iniquity, / And passeth by the transgression
of the remnant of His heritage? / He retaineth
not His anger for ever, / Because He delighteth
in mercy. / [19] He will again have compassion
upon us; / He will subdue our iniquities; / And
Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the
sea. / [20] Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob,
mercy to Abraham, / As Thou hast sworn unto
our fathers from the days of old.