

MICAH 2 vs 1

In chapter one, the prophet asked:

What is the transgression of Jacob? / what is their sin? Is it not Samaria?

and what is the high place of Judah? / what is their height of hypocrisy? Is it not Jerusalem?

The people long ago rejected the Covenant of blessing God made with them at Sinai. Micah starts at Samaria and Jerusalem – the 2 capitals where the people have **not** lived up to their God-given names: Israel = **ruled by God**; and Judah = **praise of God**: so they both will learn a lesson, but it won't be there: Samaria, the 10 northern tribes of Israel, led by Ephraim – they were **NOT** Jewish, they would first go into Assyrian captivity (modern day northern Syria); then to another place promised to King David -- 2 Samuel 7; carrying with them the birthright promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob -- who were **NOT** Jewish; someday we will learn that important lesson. Hosea says where Israel goes, they will be known as the children of the Living God – Hosea 1. Check out: The Promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob



By the way, orthodox Jewish people, are too late with the issue of building a 3rd Temple; Messiah came the first time just as Daniel wrote – Daniel 9. Isaiah tells us the future messianic kingdom, includes a **tent**: a very temporary shelter, where the Lord will instruct His people – Isaiah 4. Zechariah tells us, **the Branch will build it**. Too bad people don't read what the prophets wrote; and prefer their traditions. In Jerusalem, if you can't see past all the idolatrous junk that clutters up every street, then you missed why some still walk in darkness and have no light. Thanks to the Lord God, not all living there are stumbling around:

¹ Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work evil on their beds!

When the morning dawns, they do it, because it is in the power of their hand / how terrible it will be for the lawless seizing the reins of power; the greedy thievery of government; endlessly ripping off the citizenry; their inventive policies to help the poor; when God already said, it was the responsibility of every individual to care for: the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the poor; that they live and prosper in the land God gave to them.

² They covet fields, seizing them; and houses, they take away. They rob a man and his house, even a fellowman and his inheritance / Micah is told of the upper-class land grabbers of Jerusalem, who wrongly thought “might equals right”; especially among the people of God who were required to return land inheritances... to the original inheritors after every 6th year; yet they in Judah were no different than the upper class... those cows of Bashan in Samaria, who Amos condemned – Amos 4.

³ Therefore, thus says the Lord, Behold, I devise an evil against this people from which you cannot remove your necks / the Lord says, He will play their same game, and from His plan they will not be able to shake free; and it will end disastrously for them... unable to save yourself; **and you will not walk arrogantly: for it is an evil time.**

⁴On that day the *traitors* will take up against you a taunt; and utter a woeful lament and say,

We are completely destroyed. He exchanges the portion of My people: how he removes it from Me!

To an apostate, he apports our fields / God would punish Judah for allowing foreigners to take away their land which He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants forever; obviously they abandoned **the Covenant God made with His people at Sinai in Arabia**, including the blessings that would come if they keep and do His 10 commands – Deut. 28.

⁵Therefore, you will have no one in the congregation of the Lord extending a ruler / to divide the land by lot.

Having faithfully spoken God's words, now Micah is verbally assaulted by false prophets who confront him: saying: Stop it; Stop it! Are these the words of our God? Such harping is not prophecy; no shameful fate can ever over take the house of Jacob – for God is with us – Dr. Moffett

⁶“Do **not prophesy”, they say to the prophet: Do **not** prophesy about these things; shame will **not** overtake us.**

⁷Should this be said, O house of **Jacob, has the Spirit of the Lord grown short? are these His doings?** / they prided themselves on their father's name, though they had nothing of the spirit of their progenitor; so they asked is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? They thought impossible, as they questioned Micah's prophetic words.

Do not His words benefit the one who walks uprightly? / yes, God's promises always bless His people who walk in His ways, but these people had long ago abandoned the ways of the Lord.

⁸But lately, the men of My people have risen up like an enemy: you strip off the robe from innocent passers-by, like those returning from war / their daily plans thought up on their beds... were attacking the peaceful, while plundering the unsuspecting.

⁹The women of My people you evict from their pleasant houses, and from her children you take away My glory forever / the widows of those men slain; who fought to protect them were homeless; and her children who are now orphans: two groups that the Lord God specifically cares for... so their crime was not only robbery but also disrespect and violation.

¹⁰Arise and go; for this is **no place to rest because it is polluted** / the Lord's sentence is irrevocable, you are out of there; because of uncleanness; to stay there any longer would just finish them,

it will destroy you, even with a painful destruction.

¹¹If a man walks about, uttering wind and lies, saying, I will prophesy to you of wine and whisky; he will be the prophet of this people / he will be their spokesman, they'll believe anything.

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Suddenly, the Lord speaks of a prophetic deliverance to Micah, whether or not anyone else listens to him; and the meaning of these two verses can be understood in different ways:

The Lord says...

12 I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob / O scandalous scoundrel; after they are sent away captive by the Assyrians they will be reassembled;

I will surely gather the remnant of Israel / whatever the time, and wherever they relocate to, know this: a remnant of His people who He rules will continue. Typical of many prophecies, they often have a double-fulfillment in history;

I will set them together like sheep in the sheepfold / where? God left off the details... like the flock in its pasture: a noisy multitude of men.



13 The Breaker is gone up before them / definitely the Lord released them from their captivity:

they have broken up, and have passed through the gate / what gate? and are gone out by it.

Their king passes on before them / what king? Is that the Lord the Messiah King? Or Ephraim?

In English the word for: king, comes from the one who keeps the kin together. The word: kind = kinned, we could say: the king is the one who kinned the kin; the king is the one who kept the kinfolk together. When Paul writes: be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving (actually, grace-giving) one another as God in Christ kindly graced you – Ephesians 4; Paul means: act kindly toward one another as if we are family... because we are; we are kin – in the family of God.

Their king passes on before them

with the Lord at their head / bible scholars recognize this speaks to the Messiah of God who is the one Lord our Shepherd; but is this prophetic verse speaking of Messiah coming at the end time? Or when His people were led to Assyrian captivity, those people who carried with them all the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – Ephraim to become a great commonwealth of nations; and Manasseh to become a great nation in the later days.

In other words, does this verse speak to the Lord leading Ephraim and the House of Israel to its new location: Israel in the islands... promised to old king David – 2 Samuel 7; and further foretold by the prophets: Isaiah 49; Jeremiah 3; and Hosea 1, 12.

Yes! All that.

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and have passed through the gate / we know **Ephraim's Israel** would possess the gates of her enemies; where did **Ephraim** become a commonwealth of nations? Where did **Manasseh** become a great nation... in the last days? When thinking of the **House of Israel in the OT**, we should always think of **these 2 brothers** as the significant leaders, greatly blessed by God. Where did these things happen? After Assyrian captivity, it took 1 ½ years for **Israel** to move north through the Caucasus Mountains, where the tribes of Israel were last seen... as they disappeared from history; while at the same time, the Caucasian tribes who know they are the children of the living God; they swiftly raced across to populate the many regions of northern Europe. And the Lord God... their Good Shepherd... led them all the way.

In the last days, the Lord our Good Shepherd, is going to deal with **3 faithless shepherds**, who didn't do their assignment correctly – Zechariah 11.

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