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Micah

The book of Micah is a prophetic book found in the Christian Bible's Old Testament. It is named after the prophet Micah, who lived in the southern kingdom of Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, which puts his prophetic ministry between 750-700 BCE.

Here is a brief summary of the book of Micah:

Chapter 1: Micah prophesies against Samaria and Jerusalem, warning of their impending destruction.

Chapter 2: Micah condemns the oppression of the poor by the powerful and predicts the downfall of the wealthy elite.

Chapter 3: Micah rebukes the corrupt leaders of Judah and predicts the destruction of Jerusalem.

Chapter 4: Micah prophesies about the coming messianic age when God will establish His rule over all nations and bring peace to the world.

Chapter 5: Micah predicts the birthplace of the Messiah in Bethlehem and speaks of His reign as a king over Israel.

Chapter 6: Micah accuses Israel of being unfaithful to God and calls for repentance and justice.

Chapter 7: Micah laments the sins of Israel but expresses confidence in God's mercy and faithfulness to His people.

In summary, the book of Micah contains prophecies of judgment against Israel and Judah for their sins and unfaithfulness to God, as well as predictions of the coming Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom. Micah also calls for repentance and justice, and expresses hope in God's mercy and faithfulness to His people.

Micah Chapter 1 opens with a declaration of judgment against Samaria and Jerusalem, the capital cities of Israel and Judah, respectively. Micah speaks in the first person as a witness to the coming judgment, describing the devastation and desolation that will come upon these cities.

Micah describes how God will come down from His holy temple to judge the sins of His people. He says that the mountains will melt and the valleys will split apart in the

presence of the Lord's power. Micah also warns that the idols and altars of Samaria will be destroyed, and that the prostitutes who worked there will be shamed and exposed. Micah then turns his attention to Jerusalem, describing the coming destruction of the city and the judgment that will come upon its inhabitants. He speaks of the mourning and lamentation that will be heard throughout the city as it is laid waste. Micah concludes the chapter by calling on the people of Judah to mourn and lament for their sins, which have brought this judgment upon them. He tells them to put on sackcloth and ashes, symbols of mourning and repentance, and to cry out to God for mercy. In summary, Micah Chapter 1 is a declaration of judgment against Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins, with a warning of the coming destruction and devastation that will befall them. Micah calls on the people of Judah to repent and turn to God for mercy.

Here are some notable verses from Micah Chapter 1, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 2 - "Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple." In this verse, Micah calls on all the peoples of the earth to listen, because God is about to bear witness against them. This sets the tone for the prophetic message to follow.

Verse 3 - "For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth." Here, Micah describes God as coming down from heaven to walk upon the earth. This emphasizes God's power and authority over all things.

Verse 4 - "And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place." Micah uses vivid language to describe the earth trembling before the presence of God. This conveys a sense of awe and fear at the power of the divine.

Verse 5 - "All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?" Here, Micah explains that the reason for God's judgment is the disobedience and sinfulness of the people of Israel and Judah. He specifically mentions the cities of Samaria and Jerusalem, which were centers of idolatry and corruption.

Verse 7 - "All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste, for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return." Micah prophesies the destruction of the idols and false gods worshipped by the people of Israel and Judah. He also denounces the materialism and greed that underlie their worship, comparing it to prostitution.

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Micah Chapter 2 begins with a condemnation of the wealthy and powerful elites of Judah who oppress and exploit the poor and vulnerable in society. Micah denounces those who devise evil schemes to gain more land and property, taking advantage of those who are weaker than themselves.

Micah warns that the judgment of God is coming upon these oppressors, and that their ill-gotten gains will be taken away from them. He also predicts that they will be driven from their homes and be left with nothing.

Micah then turns to the false prophets who have misled the people of Judah, promising them peace and prosperity when judgment is actually coming upon them. He accuses them of lying to the people and prophesying falsely in the name of God.

Micah then offers a message of hope to the oppressed and downtrodden, promising that God will bring restoration and redemption to His people. He predicts that the exiles will return to their land and that God will once again dwell among His people.

Micah concludes the chapter with a call to the people of Judah to rise up and resist the oppression of their leaders. He urges them to take up the cause of justice and righteousness, and to stand firm in the face of persecution and hardship.

In summary, Micah Chapter 2 is a condemnation of the wealthy and powerful elites of Judah who oppress and exploit the poor and vulnerable in society, along with false prophets who mislead the people with false promises of peace and prosperity. Micah offers a message of hope to the oppressed and a call to action for the people of Judah to stand up for justice and righteousness.

Here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 2, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 1 - "Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand." In this verse, Micah is denouncing those who plan and carry out evil deeds in secret. He warns that their actions will eventually be exposed and punished.

Verse 2 - "They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance." Micah is criticizing those who use their power and wealth to exploit and oppress others, seizing their property and land. He emphasizes the injustice and cruelty of this behavior.

Verse 3 - "Therefore thus says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster." Here, Micah is warning that God will bring judgment upon those who commit these sins. He emphasizes that they will not be able to escape the consequences of their actions.

Verse 6 - "Do not preach"—thus they preach—"one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us." Micah is denouncing false prophets who tell people what they want to hear, rather than delivering the true message of God. He is emphasizing the importance of speaking the truth, even if it is uncomfortable or unpopular.

Verse 11 - "If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, 'I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,' he would be the preacher for this people!" Micah is again criticizing false prophets, mocking those who preach only about indulgence and pleasure. He is emphasizing the need for prophetic messages that address the real problems facing the people.

Micah Chapter 3 begins with a condemnation of the corrupt leaders of Judah, including its prophets, priests, and princes. Micah accuses them of using their positions of power to enrich themselves at the expense of the people they are supposed to serve.

Micah denounces the false prophets who prophesy for money and who deceive the people with false visions and lying divinations. He warns that God's judgment is coming upon them, and that they will be put to shame.

Micah then turns his attention to the rulers of Judah, whom he accuses of perverting justice and accepting bribes. He warns that God will hold them accountable for their sins and that their downfall is coming.

Micah describes the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, which will be laid waste as a result of the sins of its leaders. He speaks of the desolation that will come upon the city and the mourning that will follow.

Micah concludes the chapter with a lament for Jerusalem, expressing his grief over the city's impending destruction. He acknowledges that its downfall is a result of the sins of its people and their leaders, but he also expresses his hope that God will one day restore the city and its people.

In summary, Micah Chapter 3 is a condemnation of the corrupt leaders of Judah, including its prophets, priests, and princes, who have perverted justice and enriched themselves at the expense of the people. Micah warns that God's judgment is coming upon them and that Jerusalem will be destroyed as a result of their sins. He concludes with a lament for the city and a hope for its eventual restoration.

Here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 3, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 1 - "And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?" In this verse, Micah is addressing the leaders of Israel, reminding them of their responsibility to promote justice and fairness. He is highlighting the fact that those in positions of power have a particular obligation to do what is right.

Verse 2 - "You who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones." Micah is denouncing the corrupt and unjust behavior of the leaders, who take advantage of their position to harm the people they are supposed to be serving. He is emphasizing the harm that their actions cause to the community.

Verse 5 - "Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry 'Peace' when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths." Micah is criticizing the false prophets who use their position to enrich themselves, rather than delivering the true message of God. He is emphasizing that these prophets are leading the people astray and promoting injustice.

Verse 8 - "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin." Micah is emphasizing his own prophetic authority and the fact that he is speaking on behalf of God. He is highlighting his commitment to promoting justice and righteousness, even when it is difficult.

Verse 9 - "Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight." Micah is again addressing the leaders of Israel, highlighting their hostility to justice and their tendency to twist the truth to suit their own purposes. He is emphasizing the harm that their behavior is causing to the community.

Micah Chapter 4 begins with a vision of the future in which the Lord's temple will be established as the highest mountain, and all nations will stream to it. The Lord will judge between nations, and they will no longer train for war. The nations will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and they will live in peace and prosperity.

Micah describes how the Lord will restore Jerusalem, bringing back the exiles and making it a great city. The Lord will reign over them, and they will live in safety and security.

Micah then turns his attention to the future kingdom of the Messiah, who will come from Bethlehem and rule over Israel. The Messiah will shepherd His people, and they will live in peace and security. The Lord will restore the remnant of His people, and they will be as a mighty nation.

Micah concludes the chapter by addressing the present situation of Jerusalem, which is under siege by its enemies. He encourages the people to trust in the Lord and to look forward to the day when He will bring them salvation and restoration.

In summary, Micah Chapter 4 is a vision of the future in which the Lord will restore Jerusalem, judge between nations, and establish a kingdom of peace under the Messiah. Micah encourages the people to trust in the Lord and look forward to the day when He will bring them salvation and restoration.

Here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 4, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 1 - "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it." In this verse, Micah is prophesying about a future time when God's presence will be more evident and more highly regarded than ever before. He is describing a time when people from all over will come to worship God.

Verse 2 - "And many nations shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Micah is continuing his prophecy about a time when people from all over will come to worship God. He is emphasizing that people will come to learn from God and to follow his ways.

Verse 3 - "He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; 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 anymore." Micah is describing a future time when there will be peace between nations and when disputes will be resolved peacefully. He is emphasizing the importance of peace and non-violence.

Verse 4 - "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken." Micah is emphasizing the security and peace that will exist during this future time. He is describing a time when people will be able to live without fear.

Verse 5 - "For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever." Micah is emphasizing the importance of worshiping the one true God. He is highlighting the fact that there are many false gods, but only one God who is truly worthy of worship.

Micah Chapter 5 begins with a prophecy of the Messiah's birthplace. Micah prophesies that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, a small town in Judah, but that He will be great and will rule over Israel.

Micah then speaks of the Messiah's victory over the Assyrian army, which was a major threat to Judah at the time. Micah says that the Messiah will defeat the Assyrians and deliver Judah from their hand.

Micah then describes the future blessings that the Lord will bring to His people. He promises that the remnant of His people will be like a lion among the nations and that the Lord will destroy their enemies.

Micah then addresses the present situation in Jerusalem, which is under siege by its enemies. He encourages the people to trust in the Lord and to look forward to the day when He will deliver them from their enemies.

Micah concludes the chapter with a message of hope and restoration for the people of Israel. He promises that the Lord will restore their fortunes and that they will live in peace and security under the rule of the Messiah.

In summary, Micah Chapter 5 prophesies the Messiah's birthplace in Bethlehem, His victory over the Assyrian army, and the future blessings that the Lord will bring to His

people. Micah encourages the people to trust in the Lord and to look forward to the day when He will deliver them from their enemies and restore their fortunes.

here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 5, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 2 - "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." This verse is a prophecy about the birth of Jesus Christ, who would be born in Bethlehem and become the ruler of Israel. Micah is emphasizing that Jesus' coming was planned by God from ancient times.

Verse 4 - "And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth." This verse describes Jesus as a shepherd who will care for his people and lead them in the strength of God. Micah is emphasizing that Jesus will be a powerful and effective leader who will bring security to his people.

Verse 5 - "And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men." This verse is a continuation of the prophecy about Jesus. Micah is emphasizing that Jesus will bring peace to his people, even in the face of adversity.

Verse 6 - "They shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border." This verse describes how God will use the leaders of Israel to defend the land against the Assyrians. Micah is emphasizing that God will protect his people from their enemies.

Verse 7 - "Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man." This verse describes how the remnant of Israel will flourish and thrive, even among many different peoples. Micah is emphasizing the resilience of God's people and their ability to thrive in difficult circumstances.

Micah Chapter 6 begins with a call for the people of Israel to plead their case before the Lord. Micah presents the case as a legal proceeding, with the Lord as the judge and the people of Israel as the defendants.

Micah then reminds the people of all that the Lord has done for them. He reminds them of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and of the many times that the Lord has saved them from their enemies.

Micah then asks the people what they can offer to the Lord as a way of showing their gratitude. He asks if the Lord would be pleased with thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil. Micah emphasizes that the Lord is not interested in outward displays of piety, but in true repentance and obedience.

Micah then reminds the people of their sins, including their idolatry and their mistreatment of the poor and needy. He warns that the Lord will judge them for their sins and calls for them to repent and turn back to Him.

Micah concludes the chapter with a message of hope, reminding the people that the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He encourages the people to seek the Lord and to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. In summary, Micah Chapter 6 presents a legal case in which the people of Israel are called to plead their case before the Lord. Micah reminds the people of all that the Lord has done for them and calls for them to repent of their sins and turn back to Him. He concludes with a message of hope, encouraging the people to seek the Lord and to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

Here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 6, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 6 - "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?" This verse begins a dialogue between Micah and the people of Israel, in which he challenges them to consider what God truly desires from them. Micah is emphasizing that God is not impressed by empty religious rituals, but rather by genuine obedience and justice.

Verse 8 - "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" This verse is one of the most famous in the book of Micah, and it summarizes the core message of the prophet. Micah is emphasizing that God desires his people to live justly, to show kindness and mercy to others, and to walk humbly in their relationship with God.

Verse 9 - "The voice of the Lord cries to the city— and it is sound wisdom to fear your name: 'Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!'" This verse is a warning to the people of Israel, that they should listen to the voice of the Lord and be aware of the consequences of their disobedience. Micah is emphasizing that God will not tolerate injustice or idolatry, and that the people of Israel must be held accountable for their actions.

Verse 12 - "For the rich men of the city are full of violence; her inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth." This verse describes the wickedness of the people of Israel, particularly the wealthy and powerful. Micah is emphasizing that God sees and judges the actions of all people, regardless of their status or wealth.

Verse 16 - "For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people." This verse is a rebuke to the leaders of Israel, who have followed the corrupt practices of their predecessors rather than obeying God's laws. Micah is emphasizing that God will judge and punish those who persist in their disobedience.

Micah Chapter 7 begins with Micah lamenting over the corruption and wickedness in Israel. He describes a world where there is no one who is faithful or just, and where people are constantly scheming and plotting against one another.

Micah then turns his attention to the faithful remnant of Israel, who he says have been scattered and oppressed by their enemies. He encourages them to trust in the Lord and to wait for His deliverance.

Micah then confesses his own sins and the sins of his people, asking the Lord to forgive them and to show them mercy. He acknowledges that the Lord is just and righteous in His judgments, but also that He is merciful and forgiving to those who repent and turn back to Him.

Micah then prophesies that the Lord will once again show His power and might by delivering His people from their enemies. He describes the nations trembling before the Lord and acknowledging His greatness.

Micah concludes the chapter with a prayer of praise to the Lord, acknowledging His power and greatness, His faithfulness to His people, and His willingness to forgive and show mercy.

In summary, Micah Chapter 7 laments the corruption and wickedness in Israel, encourages the faithful remnant to trust in the Lord and wait for His deliverance, and calls for repentance and confession of sins. Micah prophesies that the Lord will once again show His power and might by delivering His people from their enemies and concludes with a prayer of praise to the Lord.

Here are some important verses from Micah Chapter 7, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

Verse 1 - "Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned: there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires." This verse expresses the prophet Micah's lament over the moral decay and corruption of Israel. The image of fruit being gathered symbolizes the end of Israel's prosperity and abundance.

Verse 7 - "But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me." In contrast to the despair expressed in the previous verse, this verse expresses Micah's hope and trust in God. Despite the difficult circumstances, Micah is confident that God will hear his prayer and come to his aid.

Verse 18 - "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love." This verse is a hymn of praise to God for his mercy and forgiveness. Micah is emphasizing that even though God's people have sinned, he is still willing to forgive and restore them because of his steadfast love.

Verse 19 - "He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." This verse continues the theme of God's mercy and forgiveness. Micah is emphasizing that God not only pardons our sins but also removes them from us completely, symbolized by casting them into the depths of the sea.

Verse 20 - "You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old." This verse concludes the book of Micah on a note of hope and assurance. Micah is emphasizing that God's promises to his people, made to Abraham and Jacob, will be fulfilled despite their unfaithfulness.

These are just a few of the important verses from Micah Chapter 7.

Notes:

The book of Micah in the Christian Bible is one of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament, and it contains many prophecies and teachings that can be difficult to understand. However, there are no specific questions in Micah that are widely considered to be completely unanswerable.

Some of the more challenging passages in Micah include:

1. Micah 1:15 - What does it mean to "give a daughter over to the sword"?
2. Micah 2:12 - Does the gathering of the remnant of Israel and Jacob in this verse indicate that the two kingdoms had already split by the time of Micah's prophecy?
3. Micah 4:9 - What specific events or circumstances is the prophet describing in this passage, where he compares the pain of the people to that of a woman in labor?
4. Micah 6:7 - Does the simple and concise summary of God's requirements in this verse ("to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God") suggest that following God is easy or straightforward?
5. Micah 7:18-20 - What is the significance of Jacob and Abraham being mentioned in this passage, and how does it relate to God's mercy and faithfulness towards Israel?

While these questions may require careful study and interpretation to answer satisfactorily, they are not considered to be impossible to address. As with any passage in the Bible, seeking guidance from scholars, pastors, or other trusted sources can be helpful in understanding its meaning and significance.