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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 1

New International Version

1 The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Hear, you peoples, all of you,  
listen, earth and all who live in it,  
that the Sovereign Lord may bear witness against you,  
the Lord from his holy temple.

#### Judgment Against Samaria and Jerusalem

3 Look! The Lord is coming from his dwelling place;  
he comes down and treads on the heights of the earth.

4 The mountains melt beneath him  
and the valleys split apart,

like wax before the fire,  
like water rushing down a slope.

5 All this is because of Jacob's transgression,  
because of the sins of the people of Israel.

What is Jacob's transgression?

Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah's high place?

Is it not Jerusalem?

6 "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble,  
a place for planting vineyards.

I will pour her stones into the valley  
and lay bare her foundations.

7 All her idols will be broken to pieces;  
all her temple gifts will be burned with fire;  
I will destroy all her images.

Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes,  
as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used."

#### Weeping and Mourning

8 Because of this I will weep and wail;  
I will go about barefoot and naked.

I will howl like a jackal  
and moan like an owl.

9 For Samaria's plague is incurable;  
it has spread to Judah.

It has reached the very gate of my people,  
even to Jerusalem itself.

10 Tell it not in Gath[a];  
weep not at all.

In Beth Ophrah[b]  
roll in the dust.

11 Pass by naked and in shame,  
you who live in Shaphir.[c]

Those who live in Zaanah[d]  
will not come out.

Beth Ezel is in mourning;  
it no longer protects you.  
12 Those who live in Maroth[e] writhe in pain,  
waiting for relief,  
because disaster has come from the Lord,  
even to the gate of Jerusalem.  
13 You who live in Lachish,  
harness fast horses to the chariot.  
You are where the sin of Daughter Zion began,  
for the transgressions of Israel were found in you.  
14 Therefore you will give parting gifts  
to Moresheth Gath.  
The town of Akzib[f] will prove deceptive  
to the kings of Israel.  
15 I will bring a conqueror against you  
who live in Mareshah.[g]  
The nobles of Israel  
will flee to Adullam.  
16 Shave your head in mourning  
for the children in whom you delight;  
make yourself as bald as the vulture,  
for they will go from you into exile.

#### Footnotes

Micah 1:10 Gath sounds like the Hebrew for tell.  
Micah 1:10 Beth Ophrah means house of dust.  
Micah 1:11 Shaphir means pleasant.  
Micah 1:11 Zaanah sounds like the Hebrew for come out.  
Micah 1:12 Maroth sounds like the Hebrew for bitter.  
Micah 1:14 Akzib means deception.  
Micah 1:15 Mareshah sounds like the Hebrew for conqueror.

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.

These are just a few of the important verses from Micah Chapter 1. I hope this helps!

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The book of Micah in the Old Testament of the Bible is one of the prophetic books. It consists of seven chapters and contains prophecies and messages from the prophet Micah. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from the book of Micah, particularly in chapter 1:

**Justice and Judgment:** Micah emphasizes the importance of justice and judgment throughout his book. In chapter 1, he begins by proclaiming that God is coming to judge the sins of Israel and Judah. This theme underscores the idea that God cares about the ethical behavior of His people and will hold them accountable.

**Covenant Relationship:** The book of Micah reflects the covenantal relationship between God and His people. God had made a covenant with the Israelites, promising blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience. Micah's message serves as a reminder that this covenant relationship remains central to the faith of Israel.

**Social Justice:** Micah is well-known for his strong stance on social justice. In chapter 1, he denounces the leaders and rulers of Israel for their oppression of the poor and marginalized. This emphasis on caring for the less fortunate and standing up against injustice is a recurring theme in the book.

**Hope and Restoration:** While the beginning of Micah 1 contains warnings of judgment, the book also holds the promise of hope and restoration. In later chapters, Micah prophesies about a future Messianic age and the ultimate restoration of Israel. This underscores the theological concept of God's faithfulness and the eventual fulfillment of His promises.

**Universal Message:** Micah's message is not limited to Israel and Judah; it has universal implications. In chapter 1, he speaks of God's judgment extending to the nations. This highlights the idea that God's sovereignty and moral standards are not confined to a particular people but apply to all humanity.

**Theological Influence:**

The book of Micah has had a significant theological influence on both Judaism and Christianity:

**Social Justice:** Micah's strong emphasis on social justice and concern for the poor and oppressed has influenced the development of social justice movements within both

Judaism and Christianity. His message serves as a reminder of the importance of ethical conduct and caring for those in need.

**Messiah Expectation:** Micah's prophecies about a future Messiah who would bring peace and justice have had a profound impact on Messianic expectations within Judaism. In Christianity, Micah's words are often seen as pointing to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of these prophecies.

**Covenant Theology:** Micah's emphasis on the covenant between God and His people has contributed to the development of covenant theology, which explores the idea of God's enduring relationship with humanity.

Overall, the book of Micah in the Old Testament contains important theological themes that continue to shape religious thought and practice to this day, particularly in the realms of justice, covenant, and hope.

## Micah 2

New International Version

Human Plans and God's Plans

2 Woe to those who plan iniquity,  
to those who plot evil on their beds!

At morning's light they carry it out  
because it is in their power to do it.

2 They covet fields and seize them,  
and houses, and take them.

They defraud people of their homes,  
they rob them of their inheritance.

3 Therefore, the Lord says:

“I am planning disaster against this people,  
from which you cannot save yourselves.

You will no longer walk proudly,  
for it will be a time of calamity.

4 In that day people will ridicule you;  
they will taunt you with this mournful song:

‘We are utterly ruined;  
my people's possession is divided up.

He takes it from me!

He assigns our fields to traitors.’”

5 Therefore you will have no one in the assembly of the Lord  
to divide the land by lot.

False Prophets

6 “Do not prophesy,” their prophets say.

“Do not prophesy about these things;  
disgrace will not overtake us.”

7 You descendants of Jacob, should it be said,  
“Does the Lord become[a] impatient?  
Does he do such things?”

“Do not my words do good  
to the one whose ways are upright?

8 Lately my people have risen up  
like an enemy.

You strip off the rich robe  
from those who pass by without a care,  
like men returning from battle.

9 You drive the women of my people  
from their pleasant homes.

You take away my blessing  
from their children forever.

10 Get up, go away!  
For this is not your resting place,  
because it is defiled,  
it is ruined, beyond all remedy.

11 If a liar and deceiver comes and says,  
‘I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,’  
that would be just the prophet for this people!

#### Deliverance Promised

12 “I will surely gather all of you, Jacob;  
I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel.  
I will bring them together like sheep in a pen,  
like a flock in its pasture;  
the place will throng with people.

13 The One who breaks open the way will go up before them;  
they will break through the gate and go out.

Their King will pass through before them,  
the Lord at their head.”

#### Footnotes

Micah 2:7 Or Is the Spirit of the Lord

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.

In Micah chapter 2 of the Old Testament, there are several theological thoughts and influences worth noting:

**Social Injustice and Exploitation:** Micah 2 begins by condemning those who devise wicked plans and covet fields, houses, and take them by fraud or force. The theological thought here revolves around the ethical dimension of society. Micah is critiquing the



social injustice, greed, and exploitation that were prevalent in his time. This reflects a broader biblical concern for justice and fair treatment of others, especially the vulnerable.

**False Prophets and False Teaching:** In this chapter, there is a reference to false prophets who lead the people astray with false visions and lying divinations. Theological thought related to this is the importance of true prophecy and teaching. Micah highlights the danger of false prophets who mislead people, emphasizing the need for discernment and adherence to genuine prophetic messages.

**Divine Judgment:** Micah prophesies divine judgment against those who have oppressed others and engaged in dishonest practices. This reflects the theological concept that God is a just and righteous judge who will hold people accountable for their actions. It also underscores the idea that God's judgment is not arbitrary but is based on ethical considerations.

**Hope and Restoration:** Despite the pronouncement of judgment in this chapter, there is still an element of hope. Micah speaks of a future restoration when God will gather His remnant and lead them to safety. The theological influence here is the belief in God's mercy and the possibility of repentance and restoration even after judgment.

**Covenantal Relationship:** While not explicitly mentioned in this chapter, the concept of the covenant between God and His people is implicit. The theological thought related to this is that the people of Israel had entered into a covenant with God, which included moral obligations. Their disobedience and social injustices violated this covenant, leading to God's judgment.

**Theological Influence:**

The theological influence of Micah chapter 2 can be seen in several ways:

**Ethical Teaching:** Micah's condemnation of social injustice and exploitation has had a lasting influence on ethical teachings within Judaism and Christianity. It serves as a reminder of the importance of justice, compassion, and fair treatment of others.

**Prophetic Tradition:** Micah's critique of false prophets and the importance of genuine prophecy has influenced the prophetic tradition in both Judaism and Christianity. It emphasizes the need for discernment in matters of faith and spirituality.

**Divine Justice:** Micah's proclamation of divine judgment and the theological understanding of God as a just judge continue to shape the belief systems of Judeo-Christian traditions. It reinforces the idea that God's actions are just and consistent with His character.

**Hope and Restoration:** Micah's message of hope and restoration, even in the face of judgment, has been a source of comfort and inspiration for believers. It reflects the theological concept of God's redemptive work and the possibility of reconciliation.

Overall, Micah chapter 2 contributes to the broader theological themes of justice, judgment, and hope that are central to the Old Testament and continue to influence religious thought and practice.

### Micah 3

New International Version

Leaders and Prophets Rebuked

3 Then I said,

“Listen, you leaders of Jacob,  
you rulers of Israel.

Should you not embrace justice,  
2 you who hate good and love evil;  
who tear the skin from my people  
and the flesh from their bones;

3 who eat my people’s flesh,  
strip off their skin  
and break their bones in pieces;  
who chop them up like meat for the pan,  
like flesh for the pot?”

4 Then they will cry out to the Lord,  
but he will not answer them.

At that time he will hide his face from them  
because of the evil they have done.

5 This is what the Lord says:

“As for the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
they proclaim ‘peace’  
if they have something to eat,  
but prepare to wage war against anyone  
who refuses to feed them.

6 Therefore night will come over you, without visions,  
and darkness, without divination.

The sun will set for the prophets,  
and the day will go dark for them.

7 The seers will be ashamed  
and the diviners disgraced.  
They will all cover their faces  
because there is no answer from God.”

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,

to Israel his sin.

9 Hear this, you leaders of Jacob,  
you rulers of Israel,  
who despise justice  
and distort all that is right;  
10 who build Zion with bloodshed,  
and Jerusalem with wickedness.  
11 Her leaders judge for a bribe,  
her priests teach for a price,  
and her prophets tell fortunes for money.  
Yet they look for the Lord's support and say,  
"Is not the Lord among us?  
No disaster will come upon us."  
12 Therefore because of you,  
Zion will be plowed like a field,  
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,  
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

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 3 in the Old Testament contains theological thoughts and influences that revolve around leadership, social justice, and divine judgment. Here are some key points from Micah 3:

**Corrupt Leadership:** Micah condemns the corrupt leaders, including both prophets and rulers, for their exploitation and abuse of power. These leaders were using their positions to benefit themselves at the expense of the people they were supposed to serve. The theological thought here is that God holds leaders accountable for their actions and expects them to act with justice and righteousness.

**False Prophets:** In this chapter, Micah particularly denounces false prophets who preach for personal gain and deliver messages that please their audience rather than speaking the truth from God. This underscores the importance of genuine prophetic voices and the dangers of false spirituality. Theological influence here relates to discernment and the need for authentic spiritual leadership.

**Social Injustice:** Micah highlights the social injustices prevalent in his time, including oppression of the poor and vulnerable. This emphasis on social justice aligns with broader biblical themes of caring for the marginalized and acting with compassion. Theological thought centers on the importance of ethical conduct and concern for the less fortunate.

**Divine Judgment:** Micah prophesies the consequences of the actions of these corrupt leaders and false prophets. He warns of the impending judgment of God, where Jerusalem will be destroyed and its people will suffer. This reflects the theological concept that God is a just judge who will hold both individuals and nations accountable for their sins.

**Hope for Restoration:** Despite the strong message of judgment, Micah also offers hope for the future. He looks forward to a time when God will gather a remnant of His people and restore them. This demonstrates the theological belief in God's redemptive power and His willingness to forgive and restore those who turn back to Him.

**Theological Influence:**

The theological influence of Micah chapter 3 can be seen in several ways:

**Leadership Accountability:** Micah's critique of corrupt leadership has influenced discussions about leadership ethics and accountability within religious and moral frameworks. It serves as a reminder that leaders, whether in religious or secular contexts, should be held to high moral standards.

**Prophetic Authenticity:** Micah's condemnation of false prophets has left a lasting impact on the importance of discernment and the authenticity of prophetic voices within religious communities. It encourages believers to scrutinize the messages they receive and to seek genuine spiritual guidance.

**Social Justice:** Micah's emphasis on social justice and the condemnation of social injustices have contributed to the development of social justice movements within Judaism and Christianity. It underscores the religious obligation to advocate for the oppressed and work toward a more just society.

**Divine Judgment and Redemption:** The theological concepts of divine judgment and the possibility of redemption after repentance are reinforced in Micah 3. These ideas continue to shape religious thought and beliefs about God's character and actions.

In summary, Micah chapter 3 highlights the importance of ethical leadership, authentic prophecy, social justice, and divine judgment. These themes have had a lasting theological influence on Judeo-Christian traditions and continue to be relevant for discussions of ethics, leadership, and spirituality.

Micah 4

New International Version

The Mountain of the Lord

4 In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,  
and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples  
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

4 Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid,  
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

5 All the nations may walk  
in the name of their gods,  
but we will walk in the name of the Lord  
our God for ever and ever.

The Lord’s Plan

6 “In that day,” declares the Lord,

“I will gather the lame;  
I will assemble the exiles  
and those I have brought to grief.

7 I will make the lame my remnant,  
those driven away a strong nation.

The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion  
from that day and forever.

8 As for you, watchtower of the flock,  
stronghold[a] of Daughter Zion,  
the former dominion will be restored to you;  
kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.”

9 Why do you now cry aloud—  
have you no king[b]?  
Has your ruler[c] perished,  
that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?

10 Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion,

like a woman in labor,  
for now you must leave the city  
to camp in the open field.  
You will go to Babylon;  
there you will be rescued.  
There the Lord will redeem you  
out of the hand of your enemies.

11 But now many nations  
are gathered against you.  
They say, "Let her be defiled,  
let our eyes gloat over Zion!"

12 But they do not know  
the thoughts of the Lord;  
they do not understand his plan,  
that he has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

13 "Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion,  
for I will give you horns of iron;  
I will give you hooves of bronze,  
and you will break to pieces many nations."  
You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the Lord,  
their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

#### Footnotes

Micah 4:8 Or hill

Micah 4:9 Or King

Micah 4:9 Or Ruler

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 worshipping 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 4 in the Old Testament contains theological thoughts and influences related to eschatology (the study of the end times), peace, and the Messianic hope. Here are some key points from Micah 4:

**Peace and Unity Among Nations:** Micah 4 opens with a vision of the "last days" when the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest among the mountains, and people from many nations will stream to it. The theological thought here centers on the hope for a time of universal peace and unity among nations, where disputes and conflicts will be resolved in God's presence.

**The Law and the Word of the Lord:** Micah 4:2 states that "the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This underscores the importance of God's law and His word as a source of guidance and wisdom. Theological influence here relates to the role of divine revelation in shaping human conduct and ethics.



**Messianic Expectation:** Micah 4 contains Messianic prophecies, particularly in verse 7, where Micah speaks of the Lord establishing His rule in Jerusalem and His reign extending to the ends of the earth. This is a significant theological theme as it points to the expectation of a future Messiah who will rule with justice and righteousness.

**Restoration and Redemption:** The chapter speaks of a time when God will gather the exiles and restore the remnant of His people. This reflects the theological belief in God's redemptive work, even after periods of exile and suffering. It offers hope for restoration and renewal.

**Transformation of Weapons:** One of the notable images in Micah 4 is the vision of turning weapons into agricultural tools. This image symbolizes the transformation of conflict and war into peace and productivity. Theological thought here emphasizes the vision of a world where violence and warfare will be replaced by harmony and prosperity.

**Theological Influence:**

The theological influence of Micah chapter 4 can be seen in several ways:

**Messianic Hope:** Micah 4 contributes to the broader theological concept of Messianic hope within Judaism and Christianity. The vision of a future ruler who will establish peace and righteousness has influenced Messianic expectations and interpretations of key figures in both traditions.

**Universal Peace:** The idea of universal peace and the transformation of weapons into tools has influenced discussions on peacebuilding and conflict resolution in religious and secular contexts. It inspires the belief in the possibility of a world without war and violence.

**Divine Revelation:** Micah's reference to God's law and word going out from Zion highlights the importance of divine revelation in guiding human behavior and ethical choices. This concept has shaped religious thought on the authority of sacred texts.

**Restoration Theology:** The theme of restoration and redemption in Micah 4 has influenced theological discussions about God's faithfulness and His ability to bring about renewal and reconciliation, even in the face of exile and suffering.

Overall, Micah chapter 4 presents a vision of a future marked by peace, justice, and the rule of a righteous leader. These themes have had a profound theological influence on eschatological beliefs and discussions of peace and redemption within Judeo-Christian traditions.

Micah 5

New International Version

A Promised Ruler From Bethlehem

5 [a] Marshal your troops now, city of troops,  
for a siege is laid against us.  
They will strike Israel's ruler  
on the cheek with a rod.

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans[b] of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."

3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

4 He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

5 And he will be our peace  
when the Assyrians invade our land  
and march through our fortresses.  
We will raise against them seven shepherds,  
even eight commanders,  
6 who will rule[c] the land of Assyria with the sword,  
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.[d]  
He will deliver us from the Assyrians  
when they invade our land  
and march across our borders.

7 The remnant of Jacob will be  
in the midst of many peoples  
like dew from the Lord,  
like showers on the grass,  
which do not wait for anyone  
or depend on man.

8 The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations,  
in the midst of many peoples,  
like a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
like a young lion among flocks of sheep,  
which mauls and mangles as it goes,  
and no one can rescue.

9 Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies,  
and all your foes will be destroyed.

10 “In that day,” declares the Lord,

“I will destroy your horses from among you  
and demolish your chariots.

11 I will destroy the cities of your land  
and tear down all your strongholds.

12 I will destroy your witchcraft  
and you will no longer cast spells.

13 I will destroy your idols  
and your sacred stones from among you;  
you will no longer bow down  
to the work of your hands.

14 I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles[e]  
when I demolish your cities.

15 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath  
on the nations that have not obeyed me.”

#### Footnotes

Micah 5:1 In Hebrew texts 5:1 is numbered 4:14, and 5:2-15 is numbered 5:1-14.

Micah 5:2 Or rulers

Micah 5:6 Or crush

Micah 5:6 Or Nimrod in its gates

Micah 5:14 That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

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 5 in the Old Testament contains theological thoughts and influences related to prophecy, the birth of the Messiah, and the significance of Bethlehem. Here are some key theological points from Micah 5:

**The Birthplace of the Messiah:** One of the most well-known passages from Micah 5 is verse 2, which prophesies the birthplace of the Messiah: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." This verse is significant in the theological understanding of the Messiah's birthplace and its fulfillment in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, as recounted in the New Testament.

**The Eternal Nature of the Messiah:** The phrase "whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" in Micah 5:2 emphasizes the eternal nature of the Messiah. Theological thought here revolves around the belief that the Messiah is not merely a human figure but has a divine and eternal identity.

The Role of the Messiah: Micah 5 speaks of the Messiah's role as a shepherd who will care for and lead God's people. This aligns with broader Messianic expectations within Judaism and Christianity of a leader who provides guidance, protection, and salvation.

Universal Kingship: The passage envisions the Messiah as a ruler not only over Israel but also as one who will have universal authority. This theological thought anticipates a time when God's reign will extend to all nations, emphasizing God's sovereignty over the entire world.

Theological Influence:

The theological influence of Micah chapter 5 is particularly significant in the context of Messianic expectations within Judaism and Christianity:

Birthplace of Jesus: Micah 5:2's prophecy about Bethlehem is referenced in the New Testament Gospels, specifically in Matthew 2:1-6, to explain the birthplace of Jesus. This prophetic connection has played a central role in Christian theology, emphasizing that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy from Micah.

Eternal Nature of the Messiah: The concept of the Messiah's eternal nature, as implied in Micah 5:2, contributes to the theological understanding of Jesus as the divine Son of God in Christian theology.

Universal Kingship of the Messiah: The idea of the Messiah having universal authority and kingship has influenced eschatological beliefs within both Judaism and Christianity. It contributes to the expectation that in the future, God's rule will extend over all nations through the Messiah.

Overall, Micah chapter 5 is a theologically significant passage due to its Messianic prophecy regarding the birthplace and nature of the Messiah. It has had a profound influence on Christian beliefs about Jesus as the Messiah and has contributed to discussions about the Messiah's role in the redemption and leadership of God's people.

Micah 6

New International Version

The Lord's Case Against Israel

6 Listen to what the Lord says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;  
let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 “Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation;  
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.  
For the Lord has a case against his people;  
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

3 “My people, what have I done to you?

How have I burdened you? Answer me.  
4 I brought you up out of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.  
I sent Moses to lead you,  
also Aaron and Miriam.  
5 My people, remember  
what Balak king of Moab plotted  
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.  
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

6 With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly[a] with your God.

#### Israel's Guilt and Punishment

9 Listen! The Lord is calling to the city—  
and to fear your name is wisdom—  
“Heed the rod and the One who appointed it.[b]  
10 Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house,  
and the short ephah,[c] which is accursed?  
11 Shall I acquit someone with dishonest scales,  
with a bag of false weights?  
12 Your rich people are violent;  
your inhabitants are liars  
and their tongues speak deceitfully.  
13 Therefore, I have begun to destroy you,  
to ruin[d] you because of your sins.  
14 You will eat but not be satisfied;  
your stomach will still be empty.[e]  
You will store up but save nothing,  
because what you save[f] I will give to the sword.  
15 You will plant but not harvest;  
you will press olives but not use the oil,  
you will crush grapes but not drink the wine.  
16 You have observed the statutes of Omri  
and all the practices of Ahab's house;

you have followed their traditions.  
Therefore I will give you over to ruin  
and your people to derision;  
you will bear the scorn of the nations.[g]”

#### Footnotes

Micah 6:8 Or prudently

Micah 6:9 The meaning of the Hebrew for this line is uncertain.

Micah 6:10 An ephah was a dry measure.

Micah 6:13 Or Therefore, I will make you ill and destroy you; / I will ruin

Micah 6:14 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.

Micah 6:14 Or You will press toward birth but not give birth, / and what you bring to birth

Micah 6:16 Septuagint; Hebrew scorn due my people

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 6 in the Old Testament presents theological thoughts and influences related to God's justice, ethical behavior, and the covenant relationship between God and His people. Here are some key theological points from Micah 6:

**God's Charges Against His People:** Micah 6 opens with God calling the people of Israel to plead their case before Him, as if they were in a court of law. Theological thought here emphasizes God's desire for His people to understand the charges against them, which include neglecting justice, kindness, and humility. This highlights the importance of ethical conduct and righteousness.

**Ethical Requirements:** In verses 6-8, Micah articulates what God requires of His people: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." This concise statement summarizes the ethical expectations of God, emphasizing justice, mercy, and humility.

**Covenant Relationship:** Micah reminds the people of Israel of their history and the faithfulness of God in delivering them from Egypt. Theological thought here centers on the covenant relationship between God and His people. The covenant is a recurring theme in the Old Testament, highlighting the mutual obligations and responsibilities between God and His chosen people.

**Social Justice:** Micah condemns various forms of social injustice and oppression, including dishonesty in business dealings, violence, and exploitation. This underscores the importance of social justice and moral integrity within the community.



## Theological Influence:

**Ethical Guidance:** Micah 6:8's famous verse on God's requirements has had a profound influence on ethical and moral teachings within Judaism and Christianity. It provides a concise summary of the ethical principles that believers should strive to uphold in their lives.

**Covenant Theology:** Micah's reference to the covenant relationship between God and Israel contributes to the development of covenant theology, which explores the concept of God's enduring relationship with humanity and the responsibilities associated with it.

**Social Justice:** Micah's condemnation of social injustice and oppression continues to influence discussions about social justice within religious communities. It reinforces the religious obligation to advocate for the marginalized and promote ethical conduct in society.

**Personal Piety:** Micah's emphasis on walking humbly with God highlights the importance of personal piety and humility in one's relationship with God. This aspect of Micah's message has shaped the spirituality of many believers.

Overall, Micah chapter 6 underscores the theological importance of ethical living, the covenant relationship between God and His people, and the call for justice, mercy, and humility. These themes continue to resonate within Judeo-Christian traditions and have had a lasting influence on ethical teachings and social justice advocacy.

## Micah 7

### New International Version

#### Israel's Misery

7 What misery is mine!

I am like one who gathers summer fruit  
at the gleaning of the vineyard;  
there is no cluster of grapes to eat,  
none of the early figs that I crave.

2 The faithful have been swept from the land;  
not one upright person remains.

Everyone lies in wait to shed blood;  
they hunt each other with nets.

3 Both hands are skilled in doing evil;  
the ruler demands gifts,  
the judge accepts bribes,  
the powerful dictate what they desire—  
they all conspire together.

4 The best of them is like a brier,  
the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.

The day God visits you has come,  
the day your watchmen sound the alarm.

Now is the time of your confusion.  
5 Do not trust a neighbor;  
    put no confidence in a friend.  
Even with the woman who lies in your embrace  
    guard the words of your lips.  
6 For a son dishonors his father,  
    a daughter rises up against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
    a man's enemies are the members of his own household.

7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,  
    I wait for God my Savior;  
    my God will hear me.

#### Israel Will Rise

8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy!  
    Though I have fallen, I will rise.  
Though I sit in darkness,  
    the Lord will be my light.  
9 Because I have sinned against him,  
    I will bear the Lord's wrath,  
until he pleads my case  
    and upholds my cause.  
He will bring me out into the light;  
    I will see his righteousness.  
10 Then my enemy will see it  
    and will be covered with shame,  
she who said to me,  
    "Where is the Lord your God?"  
My eyes will see her downfall;  
    even now she will be trampled underfoot  
    like mire in the streets.

11 The day for building your walls will come,  
    the day for extending your boundaries.  
12 In that day people will come to you  
    from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,  
even from Egypt to the Euphrates  
    and from sea to sea  
    and from mountain to mountain.  
13 The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants,  
    as the result of their deeds.

#### Prayer and Praise

14 Shepherd your people with your staff,  
    the flock of your inheritance,

which lives by itself in a forest,  
in fertile pasturelands.[a]  
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead  
as in days long ago.

15 “As in the days when you came out of Egypt,  
I will show them my wonders.”

16 Nations will see and be ashamed,  
deprived of all their power.  
They will put their hands over their mouths  
and their ears will become deaf.

17 They will lick dust like a snake,  
like creatures that crawl on the ground.  
They will come trembling out of their dens;  
they will turn in fear to the Lord our God  
and will be afraid of you.

18 Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.

19 You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

20 You will be faithful to Jacob,  
and show love to Abraham,  
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors  
in days long ago.

#### Footnotes

Micah 7:14 Or in the middle of Carmel

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.

Micah chapter 7 in the Old Testament contains theological thoughts and influences related to themes of sin, forgiveness, God's mercy, and the restoration of God's people. Here are some key theological points from Micah 7:

Recognition of Sin: Micah 7:1-6 describes a society deeply corrupted by sin, where trust is scarce, and people are unfaithful and deceitful. The theological thought here emphasizes the recognition of the pervasive nature of sin and its consequences in both personal and societal contexts.

**Hope for God's Deliverance:** Despite the bleak portrayal of sin and corruption, Micah expresses hope in God's deliverance. In verse 7, he says, "But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me." This reflects the theological belief in God's ability to save and redeem His people.

**Confession and Repentance:** Micah 7:8-10 contains a confession of sin and a call for repentance. Theological thought here underscores the importance of acknowledging wrongdoing and turning back to God in repentance as a means of experiencing His forgiveness and restoration.

**God's Compassion and Mercy:** Micah emphasizes God's compassionate and merciful nature in verses 18-19: "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." This reflects a profound theological understanding of God's willingness to forgive and His abundant mercy.

**Theological Influence:**

**Repentance and Forgiveness:** Micah 7's emphasis on confession, repentance, and God's forgiveness has had a significant theological influence on discussions of personal and corporate repentance within Judeo-Christian traditions. It highlights the belief in the possibility of reconciliation with God through genuine contrition.

**God's Compassion and Mercy:** Micah's portrayal of God's compassion and mercy has influenced theological discussions about God's character. It underscores the belief in a God who is not solely focused on judgment but who delights in showing mercy and compassion to His people.

**Hope Amidst Sin:** The message of hope in Micah 7 has inspired believers to maintain hope in God's redemption even in the face of sin and moral decay. This theme of hope in divine restoration has been influential in Christian theology, particularly in discussions of salvation.

**Theological Reflection on Sin:** Micah 7 prompts theological reflection on the nature of sin and its impact on individuals and societies. It serves as a reminder of the need for self-examination and acknowledgment of wrongdoing.

In summary, Micah chapter 7 offers theological insights into sin, forgiveness, God's mercy, and the hope of restoration. These themes have had a lasting influence on discussions of repentance, God's character, and the theological understanding of God's response to human sinfulness within both Judaism and Christianity.

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.