

A verse by verse study

## Micah (Who is like Jehovah?)

 He was from a small town south-west of Jerusalem called Moresheth (nr. Gath)



## The History of the Kings Judah

(c.985 B.C.)

Rehoboam 17y

Abijam 3y

Asa 41y

Jehoshaphat 25y

Jehoram 8y

Ahaziah 1y

Q. Athaliah 6y

Jehoash 40y

Amaziah 29y

Isaiah (Uzziah) Azariah 52y

Hosea Amos



Jeremiah -

Jotham 16y

Micah

Ahaz 16y

Hezekiah 29y (722 B.C.) Israel go into captivity

Manasseh 55y

Amon 2y

Zephaniah Josiah 31y

Jehoahaz 3mts

(Eliakim) Jehoiakim 11y

Jehoiachin 3mts (606 B.C.)

Zedekiah 11y (587 B.C.)

#### Micah

- Micah preached in the country while Isaiah was preaching at the court in Jerusalem and Hosea was preaching in Israel.
- Micah prophesied concerning Samaria, the capital of Israel; and Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, but his real burden was for Judah.

#### Micah

- The times were difficult; oppression was within the walls, and enemies without.
- No class was free from corrupting influences.
   Princess, priests, and people alike were all affected.
- Micah makes them all uncomfortable by his preaching, showing that every cruel act to one's fellow man was an insult to God. Micah makes it clear that God is offended by the conduct of the people and the rulers.

#### Micah

- In spite of the state of things, the people tried to carry on their religious observances.
- Micah shows the futility and hypocrisy of this.
- Israel would not heed the warning of the prophets, and were conquered and carried away by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
- Judah did and were spared for 150 years.

- 18 Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.
- 19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the Lord, and besought the Lord, and the Lord repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.

Jeremiah 26:16-19

#### Overview

Section	#1:	"Hear,	all	ve	peo	ple!"
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- Judgment against Israel & Judah Ch 1
- Judgment against wealthy oppressors
- The promise of restoration

#### Section #2: "Hear, I pray you, o heads of Jacob"

- Judgment against religious leaders
- The glory of Christ's millennial reign
- The promise of the Messiah's coming

#### Section #3: "Hear ye now what the LORD saith!"

- Israel on trial (the legal case)
- Micah's lamentation over Israel
- Future blessing for Israel

Ch 2:1-11

Ch 2:12-13

Ch 3

Ch 4

Ch 5

Ch 6

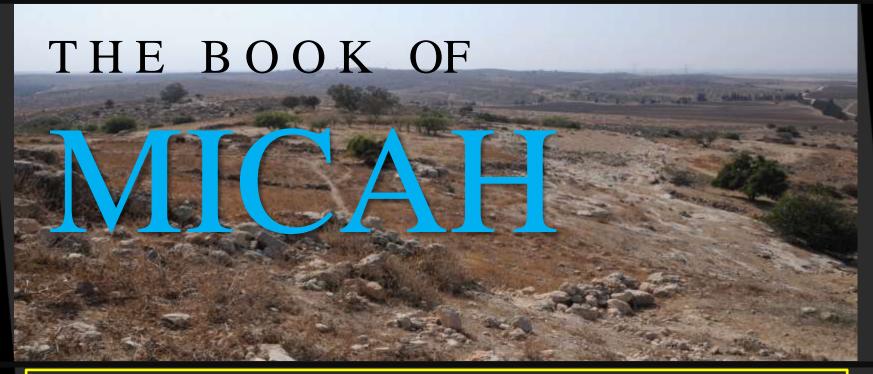
Ch 7:1-10

Ch 7:11-20



#### Chapter 3





v1-4: Judges and the corruption of the courts

v.5-8: Prophets: market-driven;

v.9-12 Politicians for hire.

And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?

Micah 3:1

Micah now addresses the judges of Judah "Was it not their special duty and responsibility to know justice? They were not unknowledgeable: they were deliberately perverting justice". – Chuck Missler

- Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones;
- Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.

Micah 3:2-3

- Their attitude had become habitual
- They were addicted to their injustice.
- v3. Like cannibals, feeding on those whom it is their responsibility to defend
- They were long overdue this moral wake-up call!

4 Then shall they cry unto the Lord, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Micah 3:4

- How revealing that people cry out to God in a time of trouble!
- Deep down, the conscience still bears witness!
- Yet God will not be found by unrepentant hearts!

### The Human Conscience

For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Romans 2:14-15

## Without Excuse!

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse

Romans 1:18-20

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

**Psalm 66:18** 

- It's not that God cannot hear, it is that He chooses not to hear.
- God is so holy, iniquity cannot be granted access to His presence!

- Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
- Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 11:14

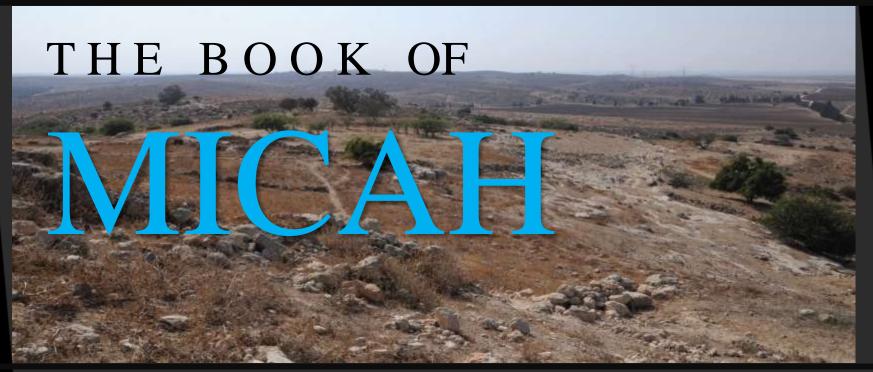
- 45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.
- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, Iama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Matthew 27:45-46



#### Chapter 3





v1-4: Judges and the corruption of the courts

v.5-8: Prophets: market-driven;

v.9-12 Politicians for hire.

Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

#### Micah 3:5

- These self-appointed prophets fed the people with lies – a false hope of peace – to secure their position
  - Prophesying what the people wanted to hear
- In contrast, the true prophets did not 'feed the people's itching ears' with talk of peace
- Consequently, they were hated by the people!

- Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.
- Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

Micah 3:6-7

- Fourfold judgment pronounced:
  - No spiritual light or divine revelation
  - You will lose even the power you claim to have
  - Time would run out on them and 'darkness' would come
  - They would be exposed, ashamed and abandoned

<sup>8</sup> But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

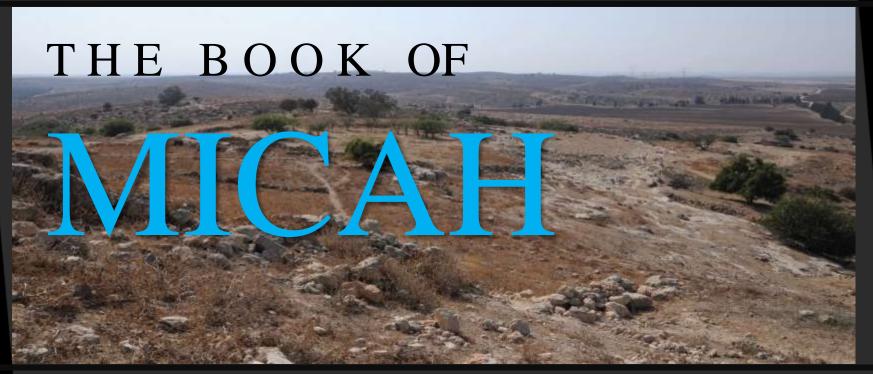
Micah 3:8

- In stark contrast, Micah appointed by the Lord – states his position.
  - Empowered and appointed by the Spirt of God
  - Called to pronounce divine judgment
  - Strengthened by God
  - Given a divine mission









v1-4: Judges and the corruption of the courts

v.5-8: Prophets: market-driven;

v.9-12 Politicians for hire.

- Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.
- They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

Micah 3:9-10

• "By their hatred of justice and perversion of all that's right, the heads and rulers were building Zion with extortion and robbery, at the cost of human misery, woe, and murder. Wealth gained from the rightful owners was used to entrench the selfish and wicked interests of the leaders" - CM

The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us. Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

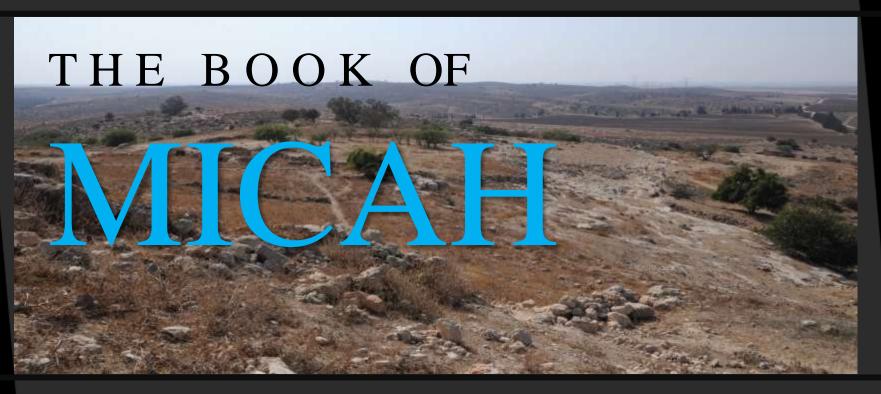
Micah 3:11-12

- The love of money... 1 Tim 6:10
- "They had the best leadership money could buy!"

4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these... 8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. 9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; 10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? 11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord.







Chapter 4

- But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.
- And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

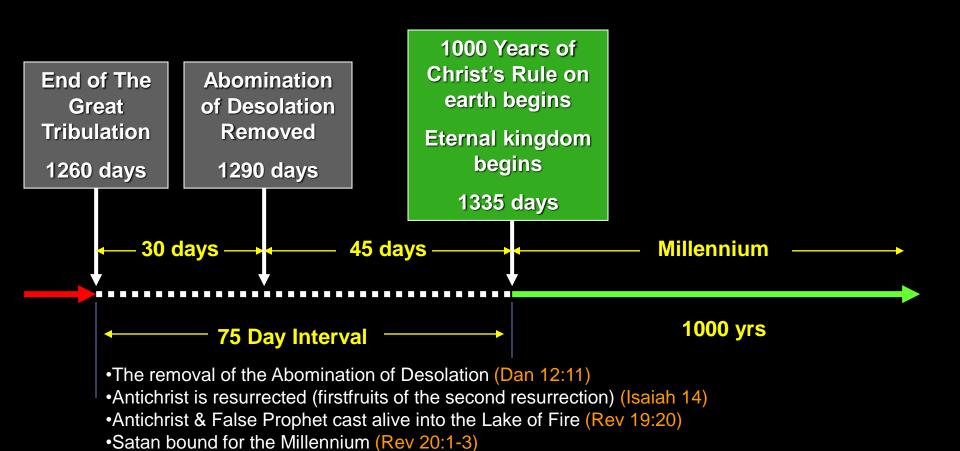
## Micah ch4, v1

- "In the last days..."
  - During the Millennial reign of Christ
- The mountain of the house of the Lord
  - The (4th) Temple will (re)built by the Messiah
- Shall be established in the top of the mountains, and exalted above the hills
  - There will be a major change in the world's geography (Psalm 48)
- All people flow unto it

# Daniel's 70th Week Daniel 9:27



# The 75 Day Interval Daniel 12:11-12



•The setting in place of the thrones for the saints (to rule with Christ) (Rev 20:4 / Dan 7:9)

•The judgement of the living Gentiles (pro-Semitic sheep & anti-Semitic goats) (Joel 3:1-3 / Matt 25)

•The resurrection of the tribulation saints (Rev 20:4-5)

#### Heaven

## The Millennium

#### Second

Coming (with bride)

#### **Earth**

First Resurrection
Complete
(Tribulation Saints
receive new
bodies)



Satan deceives nations for last time!

1000 Years

Grave

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished

- Rev 20:5

Satan bound

Satan released

- But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.
- And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

# Restitution of All Things

- PREPENT YE therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
- <sup>20</sup> And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
- Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

  Acts 3:19-21

# The Original World

- And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.
- 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

**Genesis 1:9-10** 

# Restitution of All Things?

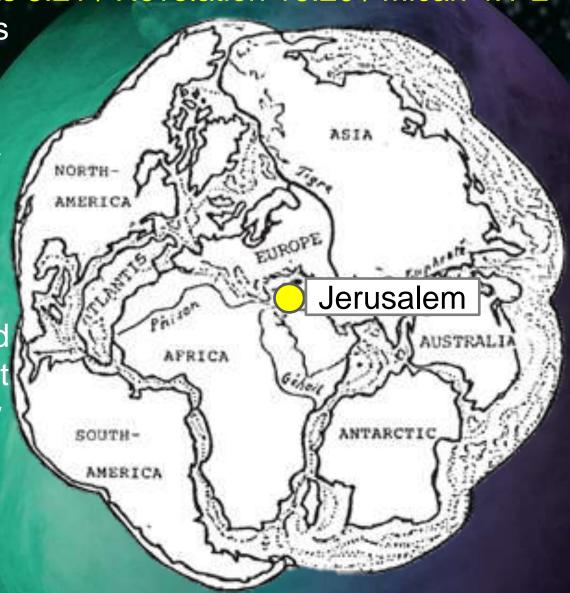
- And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
- 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.
- And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

  Revelation 16:18-20

# Restitution of All Things

Acts 3:21 / Revelation 16:20 / Micah 4:1-2

"The continents and islands, which if put together at sea level made a very imperfect fit, if moved to the right positions joined together almost perfectly below present sea level"



- But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.
- And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

- In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;
- And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Micah 4:6-7

- 'Her that walks with a limp' = Israel
- What a promise!
- But, where and when?

And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

Micah 4:8

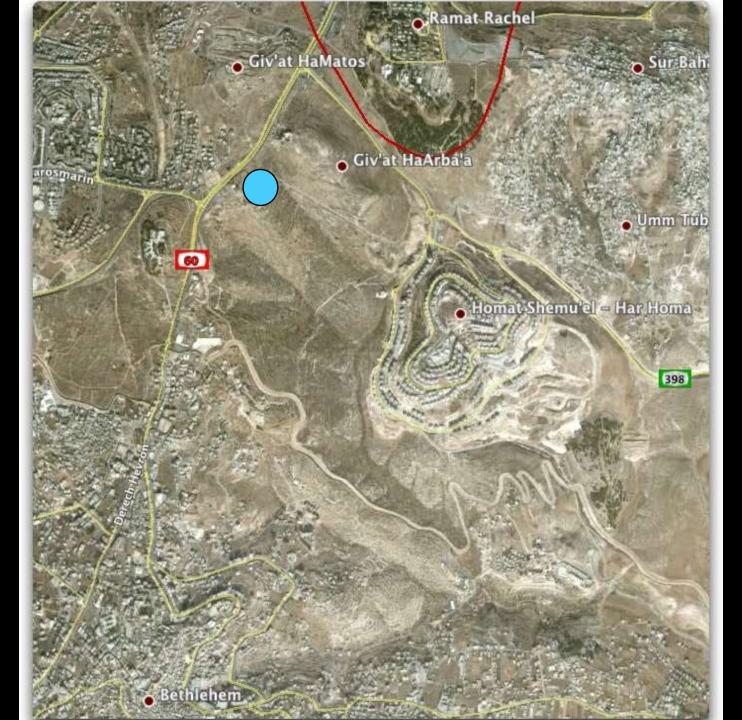
- The Hebrew phrase tower of the flock here, is "migdal edar" [mig-dawl ay-der]
- It refers to a particular tower that was built in ancient times to watch over the valley on the edge of Bethlehem, to protect the city,
- The name means "watch tower of the flock"
- Several of these towers are recorded in scripture
  - We find them in Judges 8:71, 9:46, & 9:51; and in 2 Kings 9:17, 18:8; and in Nehemiah 3:1

- Rabbi Short states:
- "This Migdal Eder was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks that pastured on the barren sheep ground beyond Bethlehem... but it lay close to the town on the road to Jerusalem". Book 2 chapter 6
- Migdal Eder, is also mentioned in the Jewish Targums and is translated "The anointed one of the flock of Israel"

- 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.
- 20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.
- And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

**Genesis 35:19-21** 





- Prominent Jewish writers concluded in the Midrash,
  - an early Jewish commentary on the O.T.
- ...that of all the places in Israel, it would be the "Migdal Eder", The tower of the flock in Bethlehem, where the arrival of the Messiah would be declared first!

- It was built as a watch tower...
- ...to be used by shepherds for protection from robbers and wild animals
- The sheep cared for here were without blemish – so, valuable – as they were specifically destined to be offered as a sacrifice in Jerusalem
- The shepherds responsible for these sheep were Levites
- One of the primary roles was to inspect the sheep to be sure they met the standard

- During lambing season the sheep were brought to the tower from the fields, as the lower level functioned as the birthing room for sacrificial lambs.
- Being themselves under special rabbinical care, these shepherds would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean birthing place.

- Once birthed, the shepherds would routinely place the lambs in the hewn depression of a limestone rock known as "the manger"
- They would "wrap the new-born lambs in swaddling clothes," preventing them from thrashing about and harming themselves "until they had calmed down" so they could be inspected for the quality of being "without spot or blemish"
  - Jewish oral tradition & Alfred Edersheim, the Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah.

- It was to these shepherds that angels came announcing the birth of the Messiah
  - 'the first dominion'
- But unless you were a shepherd, the 'directions' the angels gave were ambiguous!

## The Sign!

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12

## The Sign!

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find A babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in THE manger.

Luke 2:1-18

- The Greek text indicates they were to find A babe lying in THE manger
- Thus a babe lying in the manger itself would be that which would confirm the words of the angel
  - There was something significant about this 'manger' (and no mention of a stable!)

## A Reason To Celebrate

- The Shepherds were fearful & afraid
  - and no doubt a little bemused!
- And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

  Luke 2:20
- Why would just seeing a baby in a stable next to an Inn cause such overwhelming joy?
- Because they didn't go to a stable next to an lnn!
- There may not have even been an Inn & Inn Keeper!

#### No Room at the Inn?

- Tradition has invented 'Hotel Bethlehem' and an Inn Keeper, who was benevolent enough to allow Mary and Joseph to take shelter in his stable alongside oxen and cattle!
  - The 'account' of this fills Christmas Carols and Christmas cards!
- But the supposed Inn Keeper is <u>never</u> mentioned
- Nor is a Stable!

- There was no need for the angels to give these shepherds directions to the birth place, because they already knew it!
- These were the men who raised sacrificial lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple, that were birthed, laid in a manger & wrapped in swaddling bands at Migdal Edar
- When the angelic announcement came, they knew exactly where to go!

And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

Micah 4:8

 They would also no doubt be aware of the prophecy from Micah that the Messiah would make His appearance to Israel at their tower!

- ...as Luke 2 indicates, the sign of <u>the</u> <u>manger</u> could only mean the manger at the base of the Tower of the Flock, as it is found in the original Greek wording of **Luke 2:7,12** and 16!
- You cannot explain the meaning or direction of the sign they were given or their response unless you have the right manger, the right shepherds and the proper Hebraic perspective.

- When there was no room for them in the 'guest chamber'...
- ...Joseph had to find shelter and a place for Mary to give birth
- On their route into Bethlehem they would travel right passed this Tower of the Flock
- And it was to this place that Joseph takes Mary
- And it was in this special place at Migdal Edar that Christ was born, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah

- Prophetically, Migdal Edar (the tower of the flock), is the exact place in Bethlehem for the Christ to be born,
- God was faithful in assuring Israel that he would fulfill his promises to them of the kingdom

## Micah's Other Prophecy

- Warren Wiersbe, comments:
- "Micah prophesied that as surely as the Babylonians would soon carry away Judah in the north, so the messiah would come and establish his kingdom, & here Micah pledges that as surely as Babylon would carry away Israel, into captivity, so the messiah would arrive at the tower of the flock. And of course Micah goes on with the prophesy in Ch. 5"

- Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.
- 10 Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.

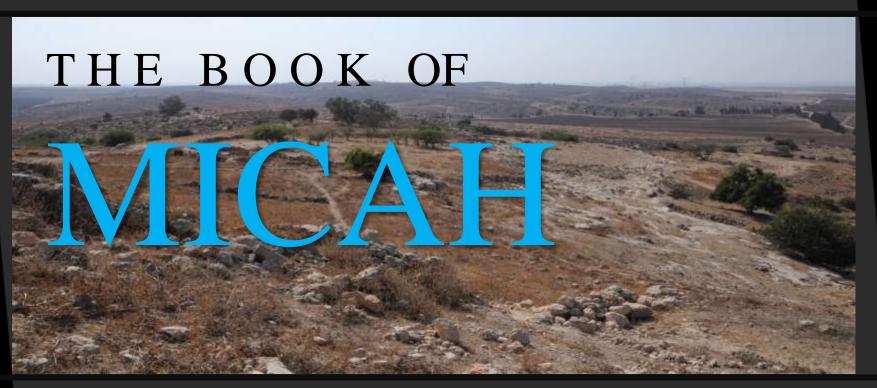
#### Micah 4:9-10

• This promise is in light of the coming kingdom, which will come (the first time) to Migdal Eder

- Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.
- 12 But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.
- Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.







Chapter 5

Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

Micah 5:1

<sup>2</sup> But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Micah 5:2

- Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
- <sup>2</sup> Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
- <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:1-3

- 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
- <sup>5</sup> And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Matthew 2:4-6

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth:

then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

Micah 5:3

- Israel will be 'given up' to the Babylonians et al until the time that Christ the Messiah is born
  - Revelation 12 summarises this
- In the middle of this verse there is a 'dispensational gap' that covers the church age
- It's as if the clock for Israel is put on hold!

# 24 Dispensational Gaps

	Book	Gap Evident		Book	Gap Evident
1)	Ps 34	12-16	13)	Micah 5	2,3
2)	Ps 22	21,22	14)	Hab 2	13,14
3)	Ps 118	middle of v. 22	15)	Zeph 9	7,8
4)	Isa 9:6	after first clause	16)	Zech 10	9,10
5)	lsa 53	middle of v. 10	17)	Mt 10	middle of v. 23
6)	lsa 61	middle of v. 2	18)	Mt 12	middle of v. 20
7)	Lam 4	21,22	19)	Lk 1	31,32
8)	Dan 9	26,27	20)	Lk 4	18-20 (qv. #6)
9)	Dan 11	20,21	21)	Lk 21	middle of v. 24
10)	Hos 2	13,14	22)	Jn 1	5,6
11)	Hos 3	4,5	23)	1 Pet 1	middle of v. 11
12)	Amos 9	10,11	24)	Rev 12	5,6

<sup>-</sup> The Church age (cf. Rev 4-5 '24 Elders')

And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Micah 5:4

This describes Israel in the Millennial Kingdom

<sup>5</sup> And this man shall be the peace.

[W]hen the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.

And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

Micah 5:5-6

- And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.
- And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.
- Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

- And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots:
- And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds:
- 12 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:

Micah 5:10-12

- Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.
- And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities.
- And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

Micah 5:13-15

