



THE BOOK OF

MICAH

A verse by verse study

Micah (Who is like Jehovah?)

- From Moresheth (nr. Gath)
- a small town south-west of Jerusalem



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

Hosea
Isaiah

Jotham 16y

Ahaz 16y

Hezekiah 29y

(722 B.C.) Israel go into captivity

Manasseh 55y

Amon 2y

Josiah 31y

Jehoahaz 3mts

(Eliakim) Jehoiakim 11y

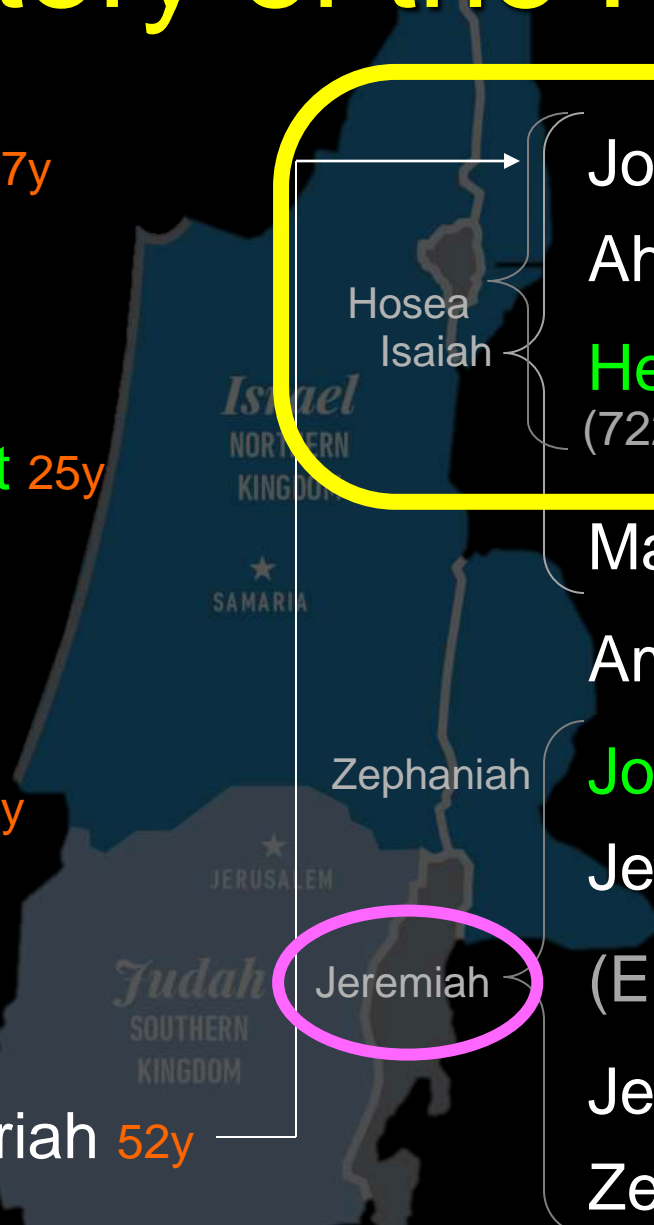
Jehoiachin 3mts (606 B.C.)

Zedekiah 11y (587 B.C.)

Zephaniah

Jeremiah

Micah



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 ye people!”*

- Judgment against Israel & Judah Ch 1
- Judgment against wealthy oppressors Ch 2:1–11
- The promise of restoration Ch 2:12–13

Section #2: *“Hear, I pray you, o heads of Jacob”*

- Judgment against religious leaders Ch 3
- The glory of Christ’s millennial reign Ch 4
- The promise of the Messiah’s coming Ch 5

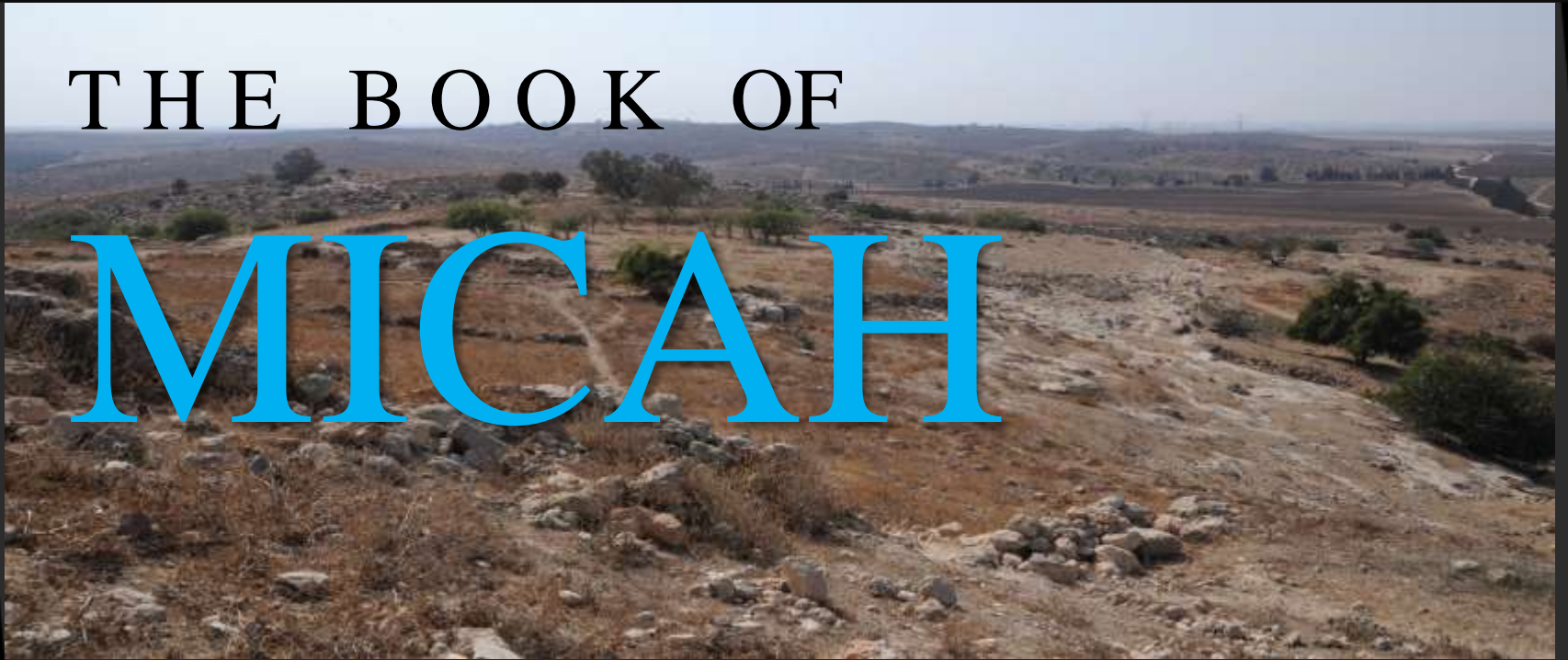
Section #3: *“Hear ye now what the LORD saith!”*

- Israel on trial (the legal case) Ch 6
- Micah’s lamentation over Israel Ch 7:1–10
- Future blessing for Israel Ch 7:11–20



THE BOOK OF

MICAH



¹ Hear ye now what the Lord saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

² Hear ye, O mountains, the Lord's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the Lord hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.


Micah 6:1-2

- *“If ye will not hear the rebuke of man, hear now at last the word of God”*. - Barns
- This is now going to court!
- God calls the mountains as one who has endured and who can bear witness of Israel's sin

³ O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

⁴ For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Micah 6:3-4

- 
- The case for the prosecution is stated:
 - God will make the case that Israel has absolutely no cause to abandon Him.
 - He redeemed them from Egypt and established strong leaders to lead and care for them

⁵ O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the Lord.

Micah 6:5

- Even when Balaam wanted to curse Israel, God turned this around for their good
- Balaam pronounced blessing over them



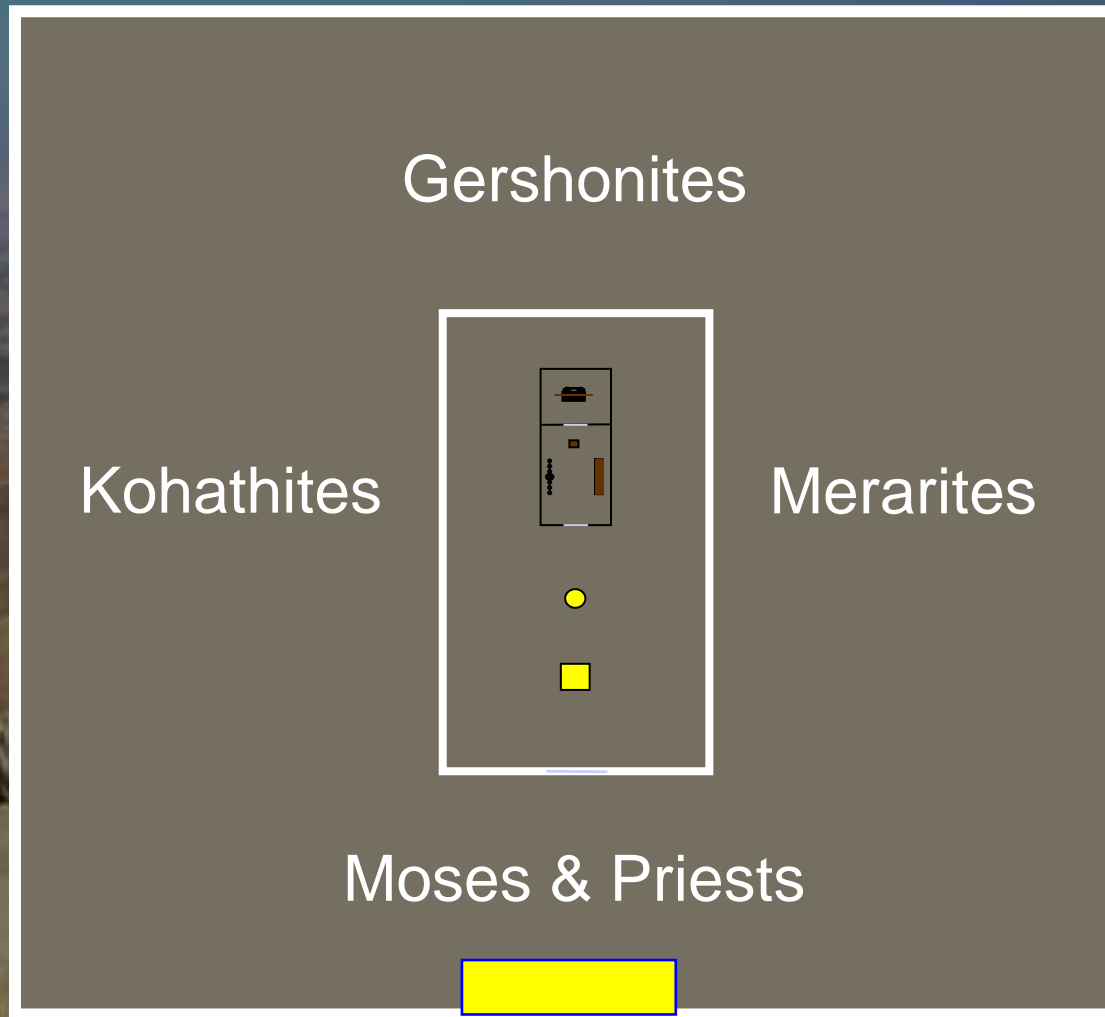
The Prophecy of Balaam

⁴¹ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

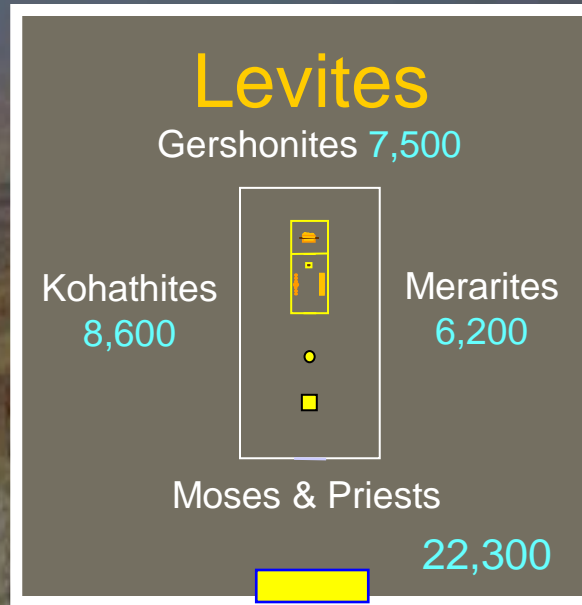
Numbers 22:41



Arrangement of the Camp



Arrangement of the Camp



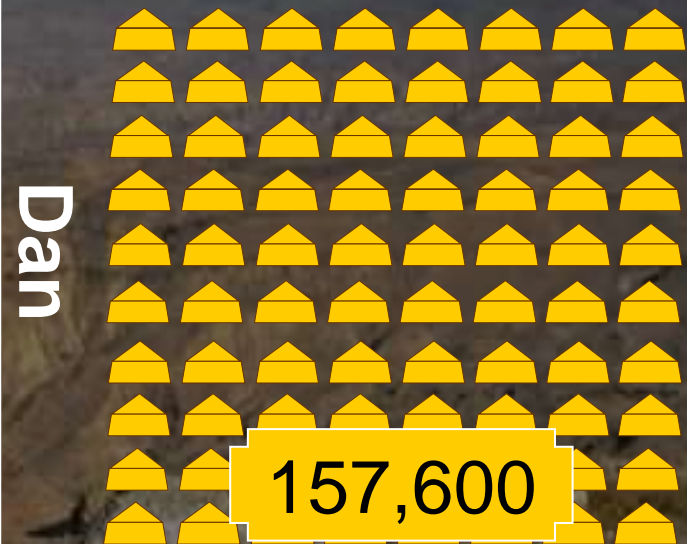
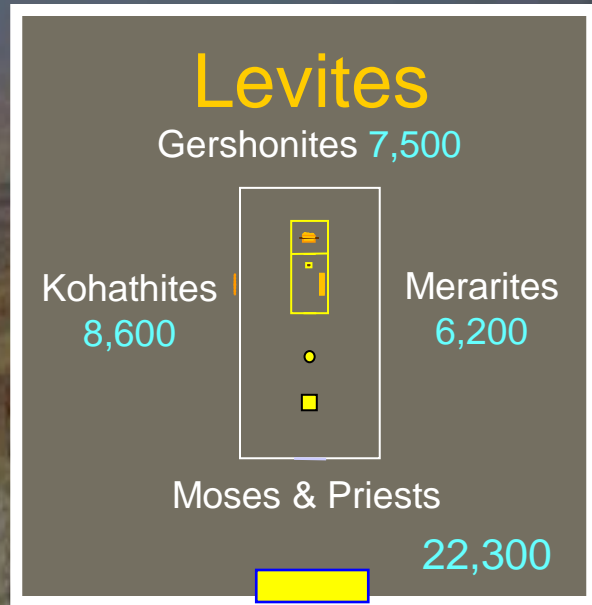
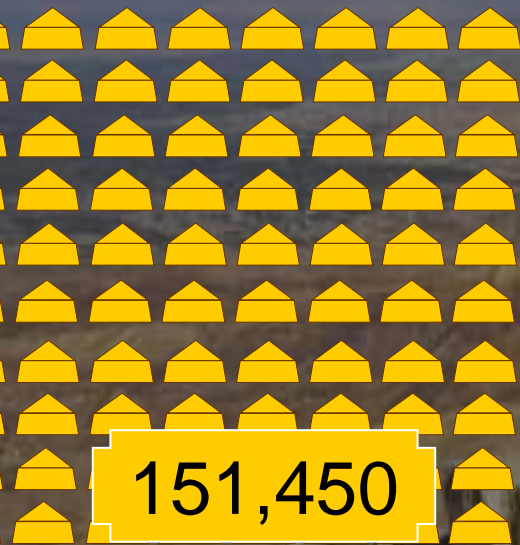
Judah



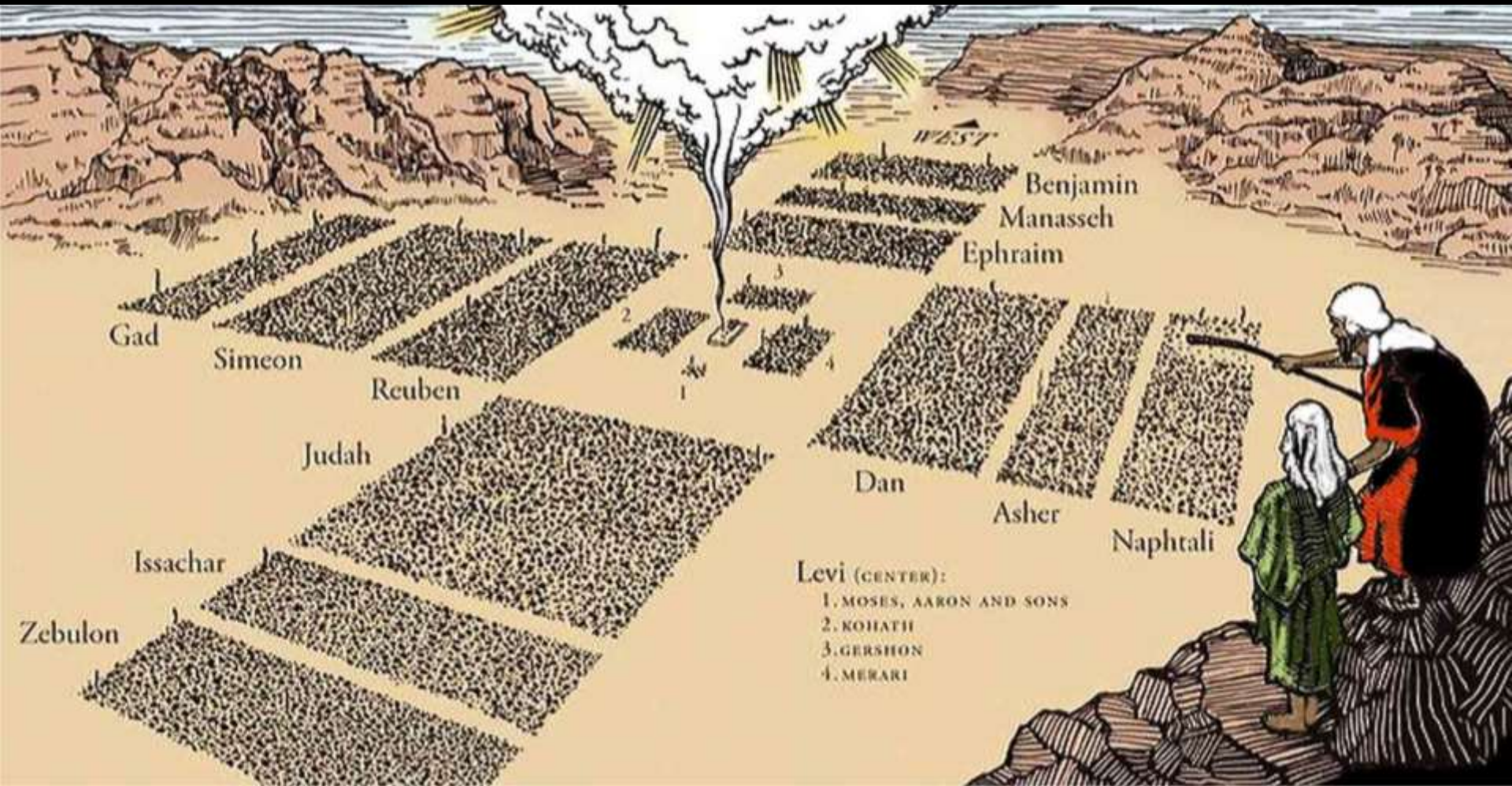
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Arrangement of the Camp

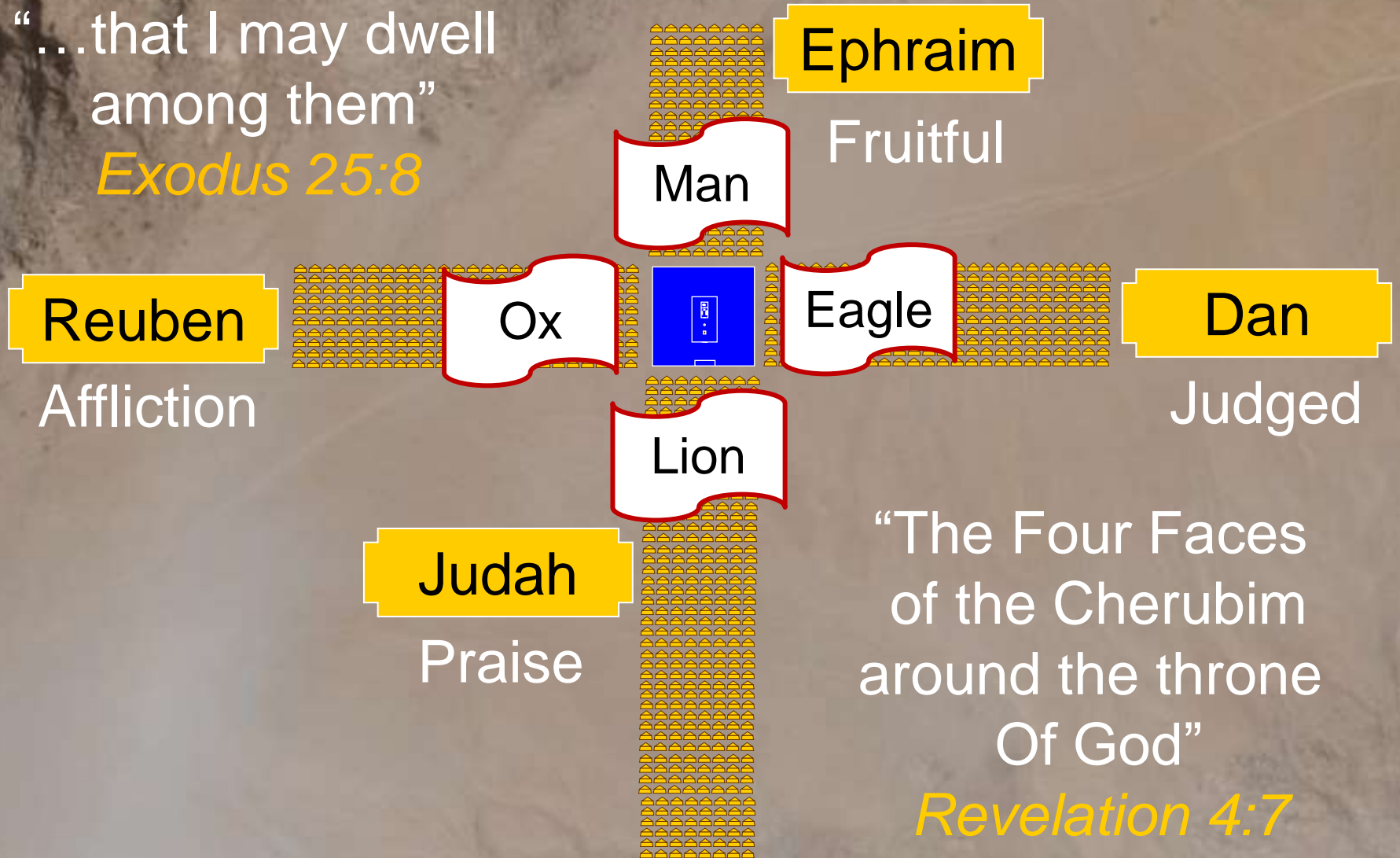


View of the Camp of Israel



View of the Camp of Israel

“...that I may dwell
among them”
Exodus 25:8



7 And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

Numbers 23:7-9

- Prophecy #1
 - Dwell alone & not reckoned among the nations

Dwell Alone

- *The people shall dwell alone -*

“They shall ever be preserved as a distinct nation. This prophecy has been literally fulfilled through a period of 3300 years to the present day. This is truly astonishing”

- Adam Clarke

Not Reckoned

- Israel only member nation of UN that are not permitted to chair security council
 - Only democracy in the Middle East
- Not recognised by any 'Arab' map



¹⁰ Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

Numbers 23:10

- Prophecy #2
 - Israel will be without number (Gen 12)
- Prophecy #3
 - Israel's end will be in blessing

20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

22 God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.

Numbers 23:20-22

- *“Blessed is the man to whom God does not impute iniquity”* – Psalm 32:2

23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

24 Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

Numbers 23:23-24

- You can't curse Israel!
- Israel stand as a testimony to God's sovereignty

“The survival of the Jewish people is the greatest proof of the existence of Almighty God. If there were no God in Heaven, there would not be one Jewish person on the earth”

“Reluctant Witnesses” - Stephen R. Haynes



“Queen Victoria once posed this question to her prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. She asked, “Can you give me one verse from the Bible that proves there is a God?” He thought for a moment and responded, “I can give you the answer in just one word.” “What is it?” she wanted to know. Disraeli replied, “The Jew, Your Majesty.”



*“An eminent man once said:
“The universal dispersion of the
Jews throughout the world, their
unexampled sufferings and their
marvellous preservation, would be
enough to establish the truth of the
Scriptures if all other evidence was
cast in into the sea””*

Reluctant Witnesses - Stephen R. Haynes



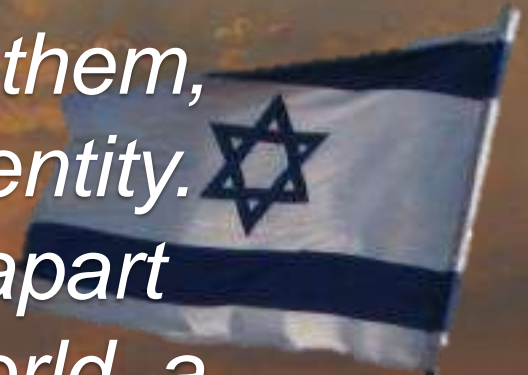
“The very existence of the Jews in history, together with all that has happened to them in their long turbulent history, is proof that there is a God present and active, through His Holy Spirit, in history. By all normal laws of geography, history and ethnography, they ought as a distinct race to have disappeared long ago!”

David Torrance



*“Despite wars, persecutions and repeated attempts to obliterate them, they have kept their peculiar identity. They have remained a people apart from the other nations of the world, a testimony to the preserving hand of God. **“For I the Lord do not change therefore , you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed”** (Mal 3:6)*

David Torrance



The Prophecy of Balaam

²⁵ And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

²⁶ But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

Numbers 23:25-26

¹ And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

² And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

³ And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

Numbers 24:1-3

4 He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!

6 As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.

Numbers 24:4-6

⁷ He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

Numbers 24:7

- Prophecy #4
 - Israel 's descendants will be in many waters
- Prophecy #5
 - Israel are destined to have a king higher than all the nations

8 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.

9 He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

Numbers 24:8-9

- Prophecy #6
 - Israel will be victorious over their enemies
- Prophecy #7
 - Blessing & Cursing promised to the nations

The Defense Enters Their Plea

- *“Now the people, as defendants, appear; but instead of vindicating themselves, or attempting to dispute what has been alleged against them, they seem at once to plead guilty; and now anxiously inquire how they shall appease the wrath of the Judge, how they shall make atonement for the sins already committed”.*

– Adam Clarke



6 Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:6-7

- *“How can we make up to you for what we’ve done?” you ask. “Shall we bow before the Lord with offerings of yearling calves?” Oh no! For if you offered him thousands of rams and ten thousands of rivers of olive oil—would that please him? Would he be satisfied? If you sacrificed your oldest child, would that make him glad? Then would he forgive your sins? Of course not!”*

– The Living Bible

- *“It would be a gross misinterpretation of this verse, a violent wrenching the text out of its context, to construe this as a mere pronouncement that the whole point of religion is a virtuous life, without the need of atonement or of faith in God's revealed word”.*

– Gleason Archer

⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

- God, through His Word has revealed to us the 'duty of man'
- To be transformed into His likeness
- God is just and merciful!

A God of Justice

³ ...*ascribe ye greatness unto our God.*

⁴ He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

- Psalm 119: *“Thy judgments are good”* v39, *“Thy judgment are right”* v75
- Everything God does is just and He calls man to be like Him
- We are made in the image an likeness of God

A God of Mercy

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:6

- Psalm 118: “*His mercy endureth forever*” v1,2,3,4,29
 - Note: this is often translated as ‘love’
 - The Hebrew word is **חַסָּד** *châçad* (khaw-sad)
- God’s mercy is consistent, never changing
- Mercy encapsulates God’s patience, kindness, love, gentleness

The Goal For Humanity

- *It was required of Adam, the Federal Head of the human race, that he should turn his natural life into a spiritual life by obedience.*
- *That is, he was to have dominion over the life in the air and in the earth and in the sea, but he was not to have dominion over himself; God was to have dominion over him, and as he obeyed God his natural life would be turned into a spiritual life.*

The Goal For Humanity

- *Adam represented what Jesus Christ represents, viz., the whole human race, and if Adam had obeyed and transformed his innocence into holiness by a series of moral choices, the transfiguration of the human race would have happened in due course*

OSWALD CHAMBERS
1874-1917

The Goal For Humanity

- *But Adam disobeyed, and there entered in the disposition of sin, the disposition of self-realisation—I am my own God. This disposition may work out in a hundred and one different ways, in decorous morality or in indecorous immorality, but it has the one basis—my claim to my right to myself.*
- *That disposition was never in our Lord. Self-will, self-assertiveness, self-seeking were never in Him.*

The Goal For Humanity

- *When we become rightly related to God, we are not simply put back into the relationship Adam was in, but into a relationship Adam was never in; we are put into the Body of Christ, and then God does not shield us from any of the requirements of sons.*
- *We have the notion at first that when we are saved and sanctified by God's supernatural grace, He does not require us to do anything, but it is only then that He begins to require anything of us.*

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

- **God requires three things:**
 - **1 Our internal life**
 - Justice speaks of our motives
 - **2 Our external life**
 - Mercy speaks of our actions
 - **3 Our spiritual life**
 - Walking humbly with God

Walking In The Spirit

¹⁶ ...walk in the Spirit, and not gratify the desires of the sinful nature”

Galatians 5:16

- This is the ideal – the goal of every believer
- But how do we do this?
- How are we to do this when we are continually wrestling against the world, the flesh and the devil?

Psalm 119

אשרי תמימי-דרך ההלכים בתורת יהוה :

- 1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Psalm119:1-2

אחזק בישור לבב בלמודי משפטי צדקן :

את-חקיך אשמר אל-תעזבני עד-מאד :

Psalm 119

אשרי תמימי-דרך ההלכים בתורת יהוה :

- 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.
- 4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

Psalm119:3-4

אודך בישר לבב בלמדי משפטי צדקך :
את-חקיך אשמר אל-תעזבני עד-מאד :

Psalm 119

Psalm 119
Aleph

אשרי תמימי-דרך ההלכים בתורת יהוה :

- 5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!
- 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Psalm119:5-6

אודך בישר לבב בלמדי משפטי צדקך :

את-חקיך אשמר אל-תעזבני עד-מאד :

Psalm 119

Psalm 119
Aleph

אשרי תמימי-דרך ההלכים בתורת יהוה :

7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

Psalm119:7-8

אודך בישר לבב בלמדי משפטי צדקך :

את-חקיך אשמר אל-תעזבני עד-מאד :

Psalm 119 – Walking in the Way

- Psalm 119: “*an utterance of spiritual life*” - Spurgeon
- It begins by stating the objective & goal of a follower of Christ; namely, to be conformed to His likeness
- ...but then goes on to travel with us through life’s journey, through the ups and downs, the moments of rejoicing and the times of failure and doubt.
- This Psalm comes from a heart that wants to see you be victorious, to truly walk by faith and not by sight.

9 The Lord's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.

10 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

Micah 6:9-10

- The lawsuit continues in this verse.
- *"The prosecution is resumed with an appeal this time, not to the mountains and hills, but to the populace". – Henry McKeating*

11 Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances,
and with the bag of deceitful weights?

12 For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the
inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue
is deceitful in their mouth.

Micah 6:11-12

- In contrast to what God requires, the wealthy leaders of the nation acted unjustly, without mercy, and walked according to their own desires



13 Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

14 Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.

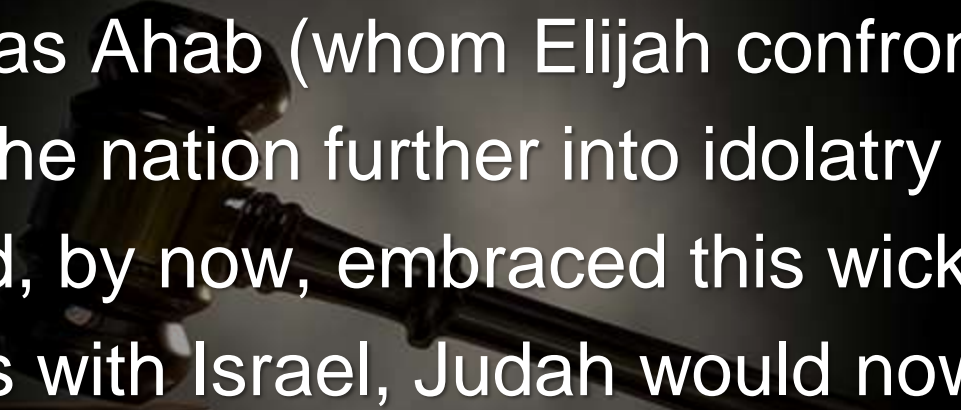
15 Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.

Micah 6:13-15

- In seeking to be satisfied they became empty
- Sowing to the flesh reaps corruption! **Gal 6:8**
- Jesus said: “Seek first the kingdom of God!” **Mt 6:33**

16 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people.

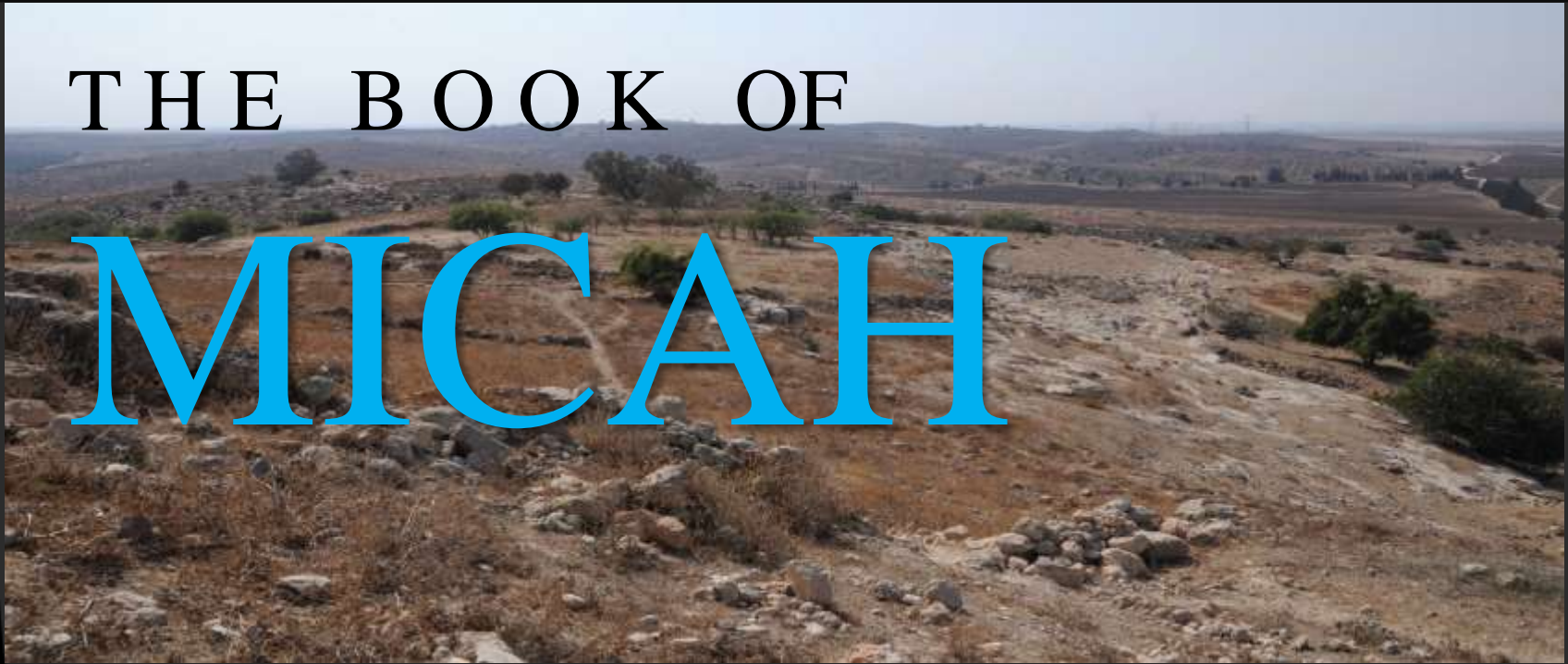
Micah 6:16

- Omri was a wicked king of the Northern Kingdom
 - His son was Ahab (whom Elijah confronted)
 - They led the nation further into idolatry and sin
 - Judah had, by now, embraced this wickedness too
 - So, just as with Israel, Judah would now be judged
- 



THE BOOK OF

MICAH



1 Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

2 The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Micah 7:2

- *“As the early fig of excellent flavour cannot be found in the advanced season of summer, or a choice cluster of grapes after vintage, so neither can the good and upright man be discovered by searching in Israel”*

– Albert Barnes

3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

4 The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Micah 7:3-4

- Corruption and dishonesty pervaded the entire nation
- Now judgment was at hand...

5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

Micah 7:5-6

- Even within families, dishonesty and deceit were rampant

21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:21-22

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Matthew 10:34-36

- The truth brings division!
- Solomon said: *“That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been”* – Eccl 3:15

- In the midst of his lamentation, Micah lifts his head and declares...

⁷ Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Micah 7:7

- What a promise!
- Do we believe it?
- Consider Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Job,
- ...whose faith follow! (Heb 13:7)
- *“For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me”* Ps 44:6

8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

Micah 7:8-9

10 Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the Lord thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

Micah 7:10

- Babylon's boast against Israel will be silenced
 - *As will all replacement theology!*

11 In the day that thy walls are to be built, in that day shall the decree be far removed.

Micah 7:11

- *“This refers to Jerusalem; the decree, to the purpose of God to deliver the people into captivity. “This shall be far removed.” God having purposed their return” – Adam Clarke*

¹² In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

Micah 7:12

- This echoes the prophecy of Isaiah 19 and of Micah ch2....
- The nations (including Assyria) shall come up to Jerusalem
- The river Euphrates to the Nile, the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, Ararat to Mt Sinai...

23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

Isaiah 19:23-24



13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

Micah 7:13-14

- v13 can be taken as either looking forward to what will happen, or prophetically looking back to what had happened *‘the land had been desolate...’*
- v14: This is not a rod of correction or affliction...
- ...the Hebrew indicates a shepherd’s ‘crook’
 - The church NEVER fed in Bashan or Gilead of old!!

15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.

16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

Micah 7:13-16

17 They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the Lord **our God**, and shall fear because of thee.

Micah 7:17

- The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- *“But You have saved us from our enemies,
And have put to shame those who hated us”.* Ps 44:7

- In considering Israel's future, Micah, thinking of his own name, declares...

¹⁸ Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Micah 7:18

- The paradox of mercy and justice!
- The only way God can remain just, yet show mercy, is if atonement is made for sin by another...

19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which **thou hast sworn** unto our fathers from the days of old.

Micah 7:19-20

- *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him”*. – Psalm 103:12-13

Lessons From Micah

- Who is like our God!
- This is a book of restoration
- This is a book that promises vindication
- This is a book that calls for God's people to walk with Him so His blessings can overflow
- This is a book that says 'trust the LORD though the present trials'
- The LORD Himself has sworn!



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