

*Analysis of*

# MICAH

## “YAHWEH’S COURT CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AND JUDAH”

“Hear now what the LORD is saying, ‘Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Listen, you mountains, to the **indictment** of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, because the LORD has a **case** against His people; even with Israel He will dispute.” Micah 6:1,2 (Emphasis added)

Prepared by James T. Bartsch  
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# MICAH

## “YAHWEH'S COURT CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AND JUDAH”

“Hear now what the LORD is saying, ‘Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Listen, you mountains, to the **indictment** of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, because the LORD has a **case**<sup>1</sup> against His people; even with Israel He will dispute.” Micah 6:1,2 (Emphasis added)

### A1 TESTIMONY: GOD’S ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL AND JUDAH 1-3

#### B1 The Prediction of Judgment 1

C1 Introduction 1:1

C2 The Warning of Judgment against Israel 1:2-7

D1 God’s call of the entire earth to the courtroom as **witnesses** to God’s **testimony** against Israel 1:2-4

D2 The sins causing judgment 1:5

D3 The nature of the judgment 1:6-7

C3 The Prediction of Judgment to the Cities of Judah<sup>2</sup> 1:8-16

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<sup>1</sup> Micah 6:2 - case: Both highlighted words are the same (*riyb*, 7379). In my estimation both should be translated "case" or "indictment" for they are one in the same. Yahweh has a legal case against His people, Israel! in both instances.

<sup>2</sup> Of the cities lifted, most are in Judah, namely Jerusalem (1:9), Shaphir and Zaanah (1:11), Lachish (1:12), Moresheth-gath (1:14), Mareshah and Adullam (1:15), and Bethlehem (5:2). Samaria (1:1, 5, 6) is, of course in Samaria or Israel and so is, possibly, Achzib, far to the north on the seacoast even beyond Mt. Carmel. Why Achzib is mentioned here is not certain. Gath (1:10) is one of the five major Philistine cities, but it is mentioned, no doubt, because it is in the vicinity of the Judean cities and would certainly be invaded also in the invasion of the Assyrian army. The location of several of the cities, including Beth-le-aphrah (1:10) and Beth-ezel (1:11), is unknown.

**B2 The Reasons for Judgment 2 - 3**

- C1 The Reason for Judgment: The Greed and Piracy of Evil-doers 2:1-5
  - D1 The nature of their sins 2:1-2
    - E1 Plotting and performing evil 2:1
    - E2 Coveting and seizing the property of others 2:2
  - D2 The effect of the judgment 2:3-5
    - E1 Yahweh's planning against the nation an evil calamity 2:3
    - E2 The peoples' lament over enemy seizure of *their* lands! 2:4
    - E3 The evil Israelite's judgmental exclusion from apportionment of land in the assembly 2:5
- C2 The Reason for Judgment: Israel's Rejection of God's True Prophets 2:6-11
  - D1 The listeners' desire to silence Micah 2:6
  - D2 Micah's quotation of the listeners' accusation of unjustified, angry impatience on Yahweh's part 2:7a
  - D3 Yahweh's rebuttal 2:7b-9
    - E1 His words do good to the righteous 2:7b
    - E2 His accusation of Israel's plundering one another as would an enemy nation 2:8-9
      - F1 Stealing clothing from Israeli soldiers returning from war 2:8
      - F2 Evicting Israeli women from their homes <sup>3</sup> 2:9
      - F3 Cheating their children of their inheritance
  - D4 Yahweh's verdict: Flee from the nation -- judgment is inevitable 2:10
  - D5 Yahweh's contempt: If a liar were to prophesy of alcohol, he would be well-received as Israel's prophet!

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<sup>3</sup> The wives of absentee soldiers, among others?

- C3 The Reprieve from Judgment: The Restoration of the Remnant of Israel 2:12-13
- C4 The Sins and Judgment of the Rulers of Israel 3:1-4
- C5 The Exposé and Judgment of the False Prophets 3:5-8
- C6 The Judgment Coming to Zion Because of the Evil of Her Spiritual and Civil Leaders 3:9-12
  - D1 Their sins 3:9-11
    - E1 Abhorring justice 3:9
    - E2 Perversion of right
    - E3 Building Zion with bloodshed and injustice 3:10
    - E4 Greed 3:11
    - E5 Pseudo-dependence on Yahweh
  - D2 Their judgment: The destruction of Jerusalem 3:12

**A2 REPRIEVE: PREDICTIONS OF TRIUMPH AND TRIAL FOR THE KINGDOM IN THE FUTURE AND DURING THE LAST DAYS 4 - 5**

**B1 The Prophecy of the Future World-Wide Israeli Empire: The Millennial Kingdom 4:1-8**

- C1 The International, Peaceful Rule of Yahweh from Jerusalem 4:1-5
  - D1 The supremacy of Mount Zion as the seat of international spiritual / civil rule 4:1
  - D2 The voluntary gatherings at seminars held at the Jewish temple where the God of Jacob teaches His ways to the assembled nations 4:2
  - D3 His international adjudication 4:3a
  - D4 His peaceful rule over the nations 4:3b-4a
    - E1 Their transformation of military weapons into agricultural implements 4:3b
    - E2 The elimination of military defence from national protocol 4:3c

- E3 The fearless private possession of real estate and personal property by earth's citizenry 4:4a
- D5 The guarantee of international peace: The decree of Yahweh of Troops <sup>4</sup> 4:4b
- D6 The determination of Israel to walk in the name of Yahweh their God forever 4:5
- C2 The Restoration of Dispersed Israelis to the Kingdom 4:6-8
  - D1 Yahweh's assembly of the weakened, despised, Divinely-chastened remnants of the Jewish people 4:6
  - D2 His molding them into a strong nation 4:7a
  - D3 Yahweh's reign over them in Mt. Zion! 4:7b
  - D4 The greatness of the kingdom emanating from Jerusalem! <sup>5</sup> 4:8

**B2 The Prophecy of Events During the Interim 4:9-13**

- C1 The prophecy of the Babylonian Exile and Restoration of Judah 4:9-10
- C2 The prophecy of the Gentiles' ongoing defilement of Israel 4:11 cf. Luke 21:24
- C3 The assurance of the ultimate supremacy of Israel over her adversaries 4:12-13

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<sup>4</sup> 4:4 - LORD of hosts (6635 *tsaba'*) A phrase which designates Yahweh as the head of the supernatural, powerful, angelic armies of heaven, and well able to defeat any merely human troop concentrations. This threat of the ultimate military weapon is enough to cow the leaders of earth's nations into peaceful submission. This is made possible by the removal of the ultimate deceiver, Satan, from the earth's scene (Rev. 20:1-3). After he is released, he will once again deceive the earth's citizenry into thinking they can successfully defy and overthrow the rule of Yahweh. In one final desperate attempt, the earth's armies will again surround Jerusalem, but will be destroyed by fire from heaven (Rev. 20:7-9). Satan, who deceived them, will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, enduring eternal torment (Rev. 20:10).

<sup>5</sup> 4:8 - *tower of the flock*. I.e., Jerusalem, which, in the figure, watches over Israel as a shepherd watches his sheep from a tower. The millennial kingdom will be greater in extent than David's or Solomon's, the *former dominion*." (RSB note)

**B3 Prophecies Concerning Israel's Ultimate Ruler 5:1-5a**

- C1 The Humiliation of King Zedekiah: A type of the humiliation of the Ultimate Ruler 5:1
- C2 The Birth of the Ultimate Ruler 5:2-3a
- C3 The Reign of the Ultimate Ruler 5:3b-5a
  - D1 The return of the sons of Israel 5:3b
  - D2 His shepherding of the flock of Israel 5:4a
  - D3 His world-wide greatness 5:4b
  - D4 His rule of peace 5:5a

**B4 The Prophecy of Israel's Ultimate Defeat of the Assyrian and other Gentile Enemies 5:5b-9**

- C1 The invasion of "the Assyrian" 5:5b
- C2 The response of Israeli leaders 5:5c
- C3 Israel's victory over Assyria as credited to the Ultimate Ruler 5:6
- C4 The prominence of the Jewish remnant 5:7-9
  - D1 Their refreshing influence 5:7
  - D2 Their supremacy over the Gentiles 5:8-9

**B5 The Prophecy of Yahweh's Ultimate Purging Israel of All Idols and False Reliance 5:10-15**

- C1 Of horses and war chariots 5:10
- C2 Of fortified cities 5:11
- C3 Of witchcraft and practitioners of the occult 5:12
- C4 Of idolatry 5:13-14
- C5 Yahweh's unprecedented execution of vengeance against the Gentiles 5:15

**A3 INDICTMENT: YAHWEH'S RESUMPTION OF HIS LEGAL PROCEEDING AGAINST ISRAEL 6:1 - 7:10**

**B1 Yahweh's Opening Statement -- His Charge Against Israel: God has a case<sup>6</sup> against Israel. 6:1-5**

- C1 Yahweh's challenge of the people to present their case before the mountains and hills 6:1
- C2 Yahweh's announcement before the whole physical earth of His indictment against Israel 6:2
- C3 Yahweh's vindication: He has done nothing but good for Israel! 6:3-5
  - D1 His question: how has He wearied them? 6:3
  - D2 His goodness in having rescued from slavery in Egypt 6:4
  - D3 His goodness in having provided leaders in Moses, Aaron, and Miriam
  - D4 His goodness in having subverted the intentions of Balak to have them cursed 6:5

**B2 Micah's Response, on Behalf of Israel, to Yahweh's Complaint 6:6-8**

- C1 The inefficacy of offerings before an aggrieved God 6:6
- C2 The inefficacy of multiplied offerings before an aggrieved God 6:7
- C3 The efficacy of obedience: What God requires 6:8
  - D1 To do justice
  - D2 to love kindness
  - D3 To walk humbly with God

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<sup>6</sup> Title - case: 7379 (*riyb* or *rib*). A legal proceeding or a quarrel of such dimensions as needs to be resolved through the judicial process.

**B3 Yahweh's Second Statement: His Cry of Judgment Against the City Because of Dishonesty, Violence, Deceit, and Idolatry 6:9-16**

C1 The call of Yahweh to the city for an accounting 6:9

C2 The sins of the people 6:10-12

D1 Evil, short-changing merchants 6:10-11

D2 The violence of the wealthy 6:12

D3 The deceit of the city's residents

**B4 Micah's Second Response 7:1-10**

C1 The Depravity of the People of Israel 7:1-6 <sup>7</sup>

D1 The universality of their evil 7:1-2

D2 Their adeptness at evil 7:3a

D3 The bribery of prince and judge 7:3b

D4 The graphic description of their evil 7:4

D5 The betrayal of both friend and family 7:5-6

C2 Micah and the Remnant's Expectation of God's Salvation 7:7-8

C3 Micah and the Remnant's Resolve to Bear the Discipline of Yahweh 7:9-10 <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The question exists in 7:1, 7-10 as to the identity of the first person pronouns. Does Micah speak of himself or the nation? The answer may well be that he speaks of himself as a representative of the believing remnant that remains true to Yahweh. (See John A. Martin, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary [TBKC]*, I, 1490.)

<sup>8</sup> Micah says he (and the remnant?) will bear God's indignation until He pleads his (Micah's) cause (*rib*) v. 9.

**A4 THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL 7:11-20**

**B1 The Restoration of Israel's Infrastructure and Empire 7:11**

C1 Rebuilding defense

C2 Extension of domain

**B2 The Restoration of Israel's International Ascendancy under the Rule of Her Messiah 7:12-17**

C1 The servile approach of the citizens of Assyria, Egypt, and Mesopotamia 7:12

C2 The judgment of desolation upon the evil nations of the earth 7:13

C3 The peace of Israel under the rule of Messiah 7:14-15

C4 The subservience of the nations to Israel's Messiah 7:16-17

**B3 The Reaffirmation of God's Pardoning Love toward Israel 7:18-20**

C1 The pardoning, unchanging love of God 7:18

C2 His compassionate termination of the remnant's sins 7:19

C3 His inviolable commitment to Israel's patriarchs 7:20

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