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Mikah

(Heb. Mikah)

Introduction

The prophets Mikah/Micah and Yeshayah (Isaiah) lived at the same time—Mikah came from a town in the southern kingdom of Yehudah. God revealed to Mikah the coming destruction to Yehudah that had been prophesied by the prophet Amos concerning the northern kingdom. Yahweh would punish the people due to their disobedient actions and due to his anger over their biased court decisions, but the account of prophet Mikah also talks about a hopeful future.
Now there are famous prophecies included in this document : Yahweh's announcement about ruling the entire world and bringing of peace/prosperity (4:1-4), the prophesying concerning the coming king from David's descendants bringing of peace/prosperity (5:2-5a); and the vital command taught by prophet Mikah there to Yisrael: "[Yahweh] has told humanity what is good, and what [he] requires from you: Act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with your god." (6:8)

Main components of this document

The punishment of Yisrael and Yehudah *1:1–3:12*
The arrival of promised teacher of Yisrael bringing good living *4:1–5:15*
The warning and telling of hopefulness *6:1–7:20*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This is Yahweh's message that came to Mikah (from Morashet) in the days of Yehudah's (Judah's) kings Yotam (Jotham),[1] Ahaz,[2] and Hizkiyah (Hezekiah),[3] that he saw concerning Shomron (Samaria) and Yerushalem (Jerusalem).

Shomron and Yerushalem's mourning · Both kingdoms

2 Listen, all you peoples.
Let the world and everything in it pay attention.
Let my master Yahweh be against you as a witness,
my master from his sacred temple
3 because wow, Yahweh comes out of his place.
He will come down and tread on the high places[4] of the earth.
4 The mountains will melt under him.
The valleys will break apart,
like wax that's near a fire,
like waters that are poured out from a steep place.
5 All that is because of Ya'akov's (Jacob's) disobedience,
and because of the sins of the Israeli people.
What was Ya'akov's transgression? Isn't it Shomron (Samaria)?
What is Yehudah's (Judah's) high place? Isn't it Yerushalem (Jerusalem)?
6 "I will make Shomron a heap of ruins in the countryside—
a place for planting vineyards.
Then I'll pour the stones from her buildings down into the valley
and I'll uncover her foundations.
7 All her carved statues will be smashed into pieces,
and all her wages will be burnt.
Yes, I'll totally destroy all her idols.
Since she used prostitutes' wages to pay for them,
the crushed pieces of idols will become prostitutes' wages again."
8 Because of that, I'll mourn and wail.
I'll go barefoot and undressed.
I'll wail like the jackals
and mourn like owls
9 because her wound is incurable.
Yes, it's come to Yehudah (Judah).
It's reached the gate of my people—reached Yerushalem (Jerusalem).

War is coming to Yerushalem · Southern kingdom

10 Don't tell about it in Gat.
Don't weep at all.
I roll myself in the dust at Beyt-Le'afrah (the house of dust).

Literal Version

1:1 The_message_of **YHWH** which it_came to Mīkāh the_ _Mōrashtiy in_the_days_of Yōtām/(Jotham) 'Āḥāz Ḥizqiy^{yāh} the_kings_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) which he_saw on Shomrōn and_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).

2 Hear Oh_peoples of_them_of_all pay_attention Oh_earth and_ _what_of_fills_it and_let_it_be my_master **YHWH** in_you(pl) (into)_a_witness my_master from_the_temple_of his_holiness_ _of_his. **3** If/because HERE **YHWH** is_about_to_go_forth from_ _place_of_his and_he_will_come_down and_he_will_tread on the_high_places_of[5] the_earth. **4** And_ the_mountains _they_ _will_melt under_him and_the_valleys they_will_be_cleft like_ _wax from_face/in_front_of the_fire like_water poured_out on_ _a_descent. **5** Is_for_the_transgression_of Ya'$_{a}$qov/(Jacob) all_of this and_for_the_sins_of the_house_of Yisrā'^{ēl}/(Israel) who is_ _the_transgression_of Ya'$_{a}$qov am_not is_it_Shomrōn and_who are_the_high_places_of Yəhūdāh am_not is_it_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **6** And_I_will_make Shomrōn into_ _(the)_heap_of_ruins_of the_field into_planting_place(s)_of a_ _vineyard and_I_will_pour_down to_valley stones_of_its and_ _foundations_of_its I_will_uncover. **7** And_all images_of_its they_will_be_crushed and_all hire(s)_of_its they_will_be_burnt with_fire and_all idols_of_its I_will_make a_waste if/because from_the_hire_of a_prostitute it_gathered_them and_unto the_ _hire_of a_prostitute they_will_return. **8** On this I_will_lament and_I_will_wail I_will_go barefoot[6] and_naked I_will_make a_ _lament like_jackals and_a_mourning like_the_daughters_of an_ _ostrich. **9** If/because is_incurable wounds_of_its if/because it_ _has_come to Yəhūdāh/(Judah) it_has_reached to the_gate_of my_people_of_my to Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).

10 In_Gath do_not tell at_all_(weep) do_not weep in_house_of leaphrah dust roll_yourself[7]. **11** Pass_on to/for_you(pl) Oh_ _inhabitant[s]_of Shaphir bareness shame not the_ _inhabitant[s]_of Tsa'$_{a}$nān/(Zaanan) she_came_forth the_ _lament_of Bēyt Ezel it_will_take from_you(pl) ground_of_its_

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1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 15:32-38; 2Ch 27:1-9.

2 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 16:1-20; 2Ch 28:1-27.

3 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 18:1–20:21; 2Ch 29:1–32:33.

4 **RV 1:3 · Note** Possibly referring to the pagan temples which were often constructed on hilltops.

5 **LV 1:3 · Note** OSHB variant note: יתומב: (x-qere) יֶתֶמָּב: lemma_1116 morph_HNcfpc id_33Wkf יֶתֶמָּב

6 **LV 1:8 · Note** OSHB variant note: ללישׁ: (x-qere) לָלוֹשׁ: lemma_7758 n_1.0 morph_HAamsa id_33jQ8 לָלוֹשׁ

7 **LV 1:10 · Note** OSHB variant note: יתשלפתה: (x-qere) יִשְׁלְפִתָה: lemma_6428 n_0 morph_HVtv2fs id_33aMT יִשְׁלְפִתָה

Literal Version

_standing. **12** If/because she_is_in_anguish for_good the_
_inhabitant[s]_of Mārōt if/because calamity it_has_come_down
from_with **YHWH** to_the_gate_of Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).
13 Harness the_chariot to_steed[s] Oh_inhabitant[s]_of Lākīsh
was_the_beginning_of sin it for_the_daughter_of
Tsiyyōn/(Zion) if/because in_you the_transgressions_of
Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_were_found. **14** For_so/thus/hence you_
_will_give parting_gifts to Mōreshet Gat the_houses_of 'Akzīv
will_become_(into)_a_deceitful_thing to_the_kings_of
Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **15** Again the_one_who_dispossesses I_will_
_bring to/for_you(fs) Oh_inhabitant[s]_of Mar'ēshāh to
'Adullām[8][9][10] the_glory_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_will_come.
16 Make_bald and_shave on the_children_of your(pl)_delights_
_of_your make_large baldness_of_your like_eagle if/because
they_will_go_into_exile from_you.

2:1 Woe_to those_who_plan_of (of)_wickedness and_those_who_
_do_of (of)_evil on beds_of_their at_the_light_of the_morning
they_do_it if/because (there)_it_is to_the_power_of their_hand_
_of_their. **2** And_they_desire fields and_they_seize_them and_
_houses and_they_take_them and_they_oppress a_man and_
_his/its_house(hold) and_a_man and_inheritance_of_his. **3** For_
_so/thus/hence thus **YHWH** he_says here_I am_planning on
the_clan (the)_this calamity which not you(pl)_will_remove
from_there necks_of_your(pl) and_not you(pl)_will_walk
haughtily if/because will_be_a_time evil it. **4** In_the_day (the)_
_that someone_will_lift_up on_you(pl) a_saying and_he_will_
_wail a_wailing it_is_finished he_will_say utterly_(devastate)
we_are_devastated the_portion_of my_people_of_my he_
_changes how he_removes_it to_me to_an_apostate fields_of_
_our he_apportions. **5** For_so/thus/hence not he_will_belong
to/for_yourself(m) one_who_throws a_measuring-line by_lot
in_the_assembly_of **YHWH**. **6** Do_not prophesy they_prophesy
not they_will_prophesy of_these_things not ignomini[es] it_
_will_be_turned_back. **7** Is_it_said Oh_house_of Ya'ₐqov/(Jacob)
is_ the_spirit_of **YHWH** _it_short or are_these deeds_of_his am_
_not words/messages_of_my do_they_do_good with the_
_upright_person walking. **8** And_yesterday people_of_my to_
_an_enemy he_raises_up from_in_front_of a_garment a_mantle
you(pl)_strip_off from_those_who_pass_by security those_who_
_turn_back_of war. **9** The_women_of my_people_of_my you(pl)_
_drive_out from_the_house_of her_delights_of_her from_under
children_of_her you(pl)_take_away glory_of_my forever_
_perpetuity. **10** Arise and_go if/because not this is_(the)_
_resting_place in_account_of uncleanness it_will_ruin and_the_
_ruin will_be_grievous. **11** If anyone who_walks_of wind and_

Readers' Version

11 Pass by undressed and humiliated, inhabitants of Shafir.
Don't come out, inhabitants of Tsa'anan.
Beyt-Haetsel mourns—its place to stand is taken from you
12 because the inhabitants of Marot wait anxiously for good,
because disaster has come down from Yahweh to Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) gates.
13 Harness the chariot to the team of horses, inhabitants of Lakish.
She was the beginning of sin for the daughter of Tsiyon (Zion),
because Yisrael's (Israel's) transgressions were first found in you.
14 So you'll give parting gifts to Moreshet-Gat.
The town of Akziv will deceive Yisrael's kings.
15 I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah.
Yisrael's best will come to Adulam.
16 Shave your head
and cut off your hair
for the children who you delight in.
Make yourselves as bald as eagles,
because they'll be taken from you and into exile.

Punishing the oppressors

2:1 Woe to those who plan to do wicked things—
to those who do evil on their beds.
They do it in the morning light
because they make use of their power.
2 They see fields that they'd like and seize them,
and houses and they just take them.
They'll oppress a man and his household—
even taking property handed down in the family.
3 Therefore Yahweh says,
"Listen, I'm planning to bring disaster against this clan,
which you won't be able to avoid.
You won't walk so proudly,
because it'll be a terrible time for you all.
4 In that day someone will sing a song against you all.
and mourn with a song of wailing,
and say, 'We're completely ruined.
Yahweh changes my people's territory.
How can he remove the land from me?
He divides our fields up to give to traitors.' "
5 Therefore, there'll be no one in Yahweh's assembly
who'll have authority to measure you out any more land.
6 "Don't tell us that,"
they tell us!
"They shouldn't preach those things—
that sort of disgrace will never happen to us."
7 Do Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants really ask,

8 LV 1:15 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

9 LV 1:15 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

10 LV 1:15 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

"Is the Yahweh's spirit impatient?
Are these his actions?"
Don't my words do good to anyone who obeys them?
8 Lately my people have risen up against me like an enemy.
You strip the rich robe off those who are innocently going past,
like a soldier on the battlefield might have done to his enemy.
9 You've driven our widows out of their pleasant houses.
You've forever deprived their young children of what I'd blessed them with.
10 Get ready and leave because this isn't a place for resting.
It's about to be completely destroyed because of its disobedience.
11 If someone comes to you full of talk and lies and says,
"I'll prophesy to you about enjoying wine and strong drink,"
he'd be considered to be a prophet for this people.
12 I will certainly gather all of you, Ya'akov (Jacob).
I'll definitely assemble the remnant of Yisrael (Israel).
I'll bring them together like sheep in a pen—
like a flock in the middle of their pasture.
Noisy because there'll be so many people.
13 Someone will go in front of them to break open the way.
They'll force open the gate and go out.
Their king will pass on ahead of them.
Yahweh will be at their head.

Scolding Yisrael's leaders and prophets · Both kingdoms

3:1 Then I said, "Now listen,
you leaders of Ya'akov (Jacob),
and rulers of the house of Yisrael (Israel):
Isn't it your responsibility to understand justice?
2 Those who hate good
and love evil,
those who tear their skin off them
and their flesh from their bones,
3 those who eat the flesh of my people,
and their skin that they've stripped off them,
they break their bones,
and chop them in pieces,
just like soup in a pot—
like meat in a cauldron.
4 Then they'll call out to Yahweh for help,
but he won't answer them.
He'll hide himself from them at that time,
because they've done evil things."
5 So Yahweh speaks out against the 'prophets' who lead his people astray:
"They lie through their teeth and proclaim, 'Peace.'
They're fighting against the one who never put a single word into their mouths.

Literal Version

_falsehood he_told_a_lie I_will_prophesy to/for_yourself(m) of_
_wine and_of_(the)_drink and_it_was the_prophesier_of the_
_people (the)_this. **12** Surely_(gather) I_will_gather Oh_Ya'ₐqov
of_you_of_all surely_(assemble) I_will_assemble the_remnant_
_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) together I_will_make_it like_sheep a_
_sheepfold like_a_flock in_the_middle of_(the)_pasture_of_its
they_will_be_distraught from_humankind. **13** The_one_who_
_breaks_through he_will_go_up before_them they_will_break_
_through and_they_have_passed_through the_gate and_they_
_went_out in_him/it and_ king_of_their _he/it_passed_through
before_them and_**YHWH** will_be_of_at_their_head.

3:1 And_I_said hear please Oh_leaders_of Ya'ₐqov/(Jacob) and_
_Oh_rulers_of the_house_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) am_not to/for_
_you(pl) to_know ~~DOM~~ (the)_justice. **2** Oh_you(pl)_who_hate_of
(of)_good and_you(pl)_who_love_of (of)_evil[12] who_tear_away_
_of skin_of_(of)_their from_on_them and_flesh_of_their from_
_under bones_of_their. **3** And_which they_have_eaten the_
_flesh_of my_people_of_my and_skin_of_their from_on_them
they_have_stripped_off and_~~DOM~~ bones_of_their they_have_
_broken_in_pieces and_they_have_chopped_them_up just_as
in_pot and_like_meat in_the_middle a_caldron. **4** Then they_
_will_cry_out to **YHWH** and_not he_will_answer them and_he_
_will_hide his/its_faces/face from_them at_time (the)_that
just_as they_have_made_evil deeds_of_their. **5** Thus **YHWH** he_
_says on the_prophets who_mislead ~~DOM~~ people_of_my who_
_bite with_teeth_of_their and_they_proclaim peace and_which
not he_puts on mouth_of_their and_they_consecrate
on/upon/above_him/it war. **6** For_so/thus/hence night to/for_
_you(pl) from_vision and_it_will_grow_dark to/for_you(pl)
from_divining and_ the_sun _it_will_go on the_prophets and_it_
_will_be_dark on_them the_day. **7** And_they_will_be_ashamed[13]
the_seers and_ those_who_divine _they_will_be_abashed and_
_they_will_cover over a_moustache of_them_of_all if/because
there_will_not_be an_answer_of god. **8** And_but I I_am_full
power with the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_justice and_might to_
_announce to_Ya'ₐqov/(Jacob) transgression_of_its and_to_
_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) sin_of_its. **9** Hear please this Oh_leaders_of
the_house_of Ya'ₐqov and_Oh_rulers_of the_house_of

12 LV 3:2 · Note OSHB variant note: הָעֹר: (x-qere) 'עָרֶ': lemma_7451 b n_1 morph_HAamsa id_33pm7 עָרֶ

13 LV 3:7 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

Literal Version

Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) who_loathe justice and_~~DOM~~ every_of (the)_
_straight_thing they_make_crooked. **10** Who_build
Tsiyyōn/(Zion) with_blood(s) and_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem)
with_injustice. **11** Leaders_of_its for_a_bribe they_judge and_
_priests_of_its for_a_price they_teach and_prophets_of_its for_
_money they_divine and_on **YHWH** they_depend to_say am_
not is**YHWH** in_midst_of_our not it_will_come on_us
calamity. **12** For_so/thus/hence on_account_of_of_you(pl)
Tsiyyōn a_field it_will_be_plowed and_
_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) heaps_of_ruins it_will_be and_the_
_mountain_of the_house (into)_high_places_of a_forest.

4:1 And_it_was in_end/latter the_days it_will_be the_mountain_
_of the_house_of **YHWH** established (in)_the_chief_of the_
mountains and it _will_be_lifted_up more_than_the_hills and_
_they_will_stream on/upon/above_him/it peoples. **2** And_
nations many _they_will_come and_they_will_say come and_
_let_us_go_up to the_mountain_of **YHWH** and_near/to the_
_house_of the_god_of Ya'ₐqov/(Jacob) so_that_he_may_teach_
_us from_ways_of_his and_so_that_we_may_walk in_paths_of_
_his if/because from_Tsiyyōn instruction it_will_go_forth and_
_the_message_of **YHWH** from_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **3** And_
_he_will_judge between peoples many and_he_will_decide for_
_nations mighty to far_away and_they_will_beat swords_of_
_their into_plowshares and_spears_of_their into_pruning_
_knives not nation they_will_lift_up against nation a_sword
and_not they_will_learn again warfare. **4** And_they_will_dwell
everyone under vine_of_his_own and_under fig_tree_of_his_
_own and_there_will_not_be one_who_terrifies if/because the_
_mouth_of **YHWH** soldiers/messengers it_has_spoken.
5 If/because all_of the_peoples they_walk everyone in/on_
_name_of his/its_god and_we we_will_walk in/on_name_of
YHWH god_of_our forever_perpetuity and_ever.

Readers' Version

6 Therefore, it'll be night for you prophets, without any visions.
It will be dark for you all, without any prophesying.
The sun will go down on the 'prophets',
and the day will be black for them.
7 The tellers of the future will be put to shame,
and the diviners will be disgraced.
They will cover their lips, all of them,
because there'll be no answer from God."
8 But I'm full of power from Yahweh's spirit,
and full of justice and strength,
to declare to Ya'akov (Jacob) his disobedience,
and to Yisrael (Israel) his sin.
9 Now listen to this,
you leaders of the house of Ya'akov,
and rulers of the house of Yisrael,
you all who detest justice,
and who take everything that's right and make it crooked.
10 You build Tsiyon (Zion) with blood
and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with evil.
11 Her leaders judge for a bribe,
her priests teach for a price,
and her prophets do divination for money.
Yet they claim to depend on Yahweh, and they say,
"Isn't Yahweh right here with us?
Nothing bad can happen to us."
12 Therefore, because of you all,
Tsiyon (Zion) will become a ploughed field,
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will become a heap of rubble,
and the temple hill will become covered with scrub.[11]

Yahweh's mountain · Both kingdoms[14]

4:1 In the last days it'll come about
that the mountain where Yahweh's residence is
will become more important than other mountains.
Then it'll be lifted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
2 Many nations will go and say,
"Come, let's go up to Yahweh's mountain,
to the house of the Ya'akov's (Jacob's) god
so that he will teach us his ways,
and we will walk on his paths."
Because the law will go out from Tsiyon (Zion),
and Yahweh's message from Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
3 He'll judge among many peoples
and will arbitrate for strong countries far away.
They'll beat their swords into plough blades
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nations won't attack other nations,
nor will they train for war any longer.
4 Then every person will be able to sit under their grapevine

11 **RV 3:12 · Cross-ref.** Jer 26:18.

14 **RV 4:1 · Parallel** Isa. 2:2-4

Readers' Version

and under their fig tree.
No one will make them afraid,[15]
because Commander-in-chief Yahweh has spoken.
5 All various people groups follow their own god,
but we will obey our god Yahweh's instructions
forever and ever.

Yisrael will return from exile · Both kingdoms

6 Yahweh declares: "At that time, I'll gather the lame people
and assemble those who were scattered—those who I've done harm to.
7 And I will turn those lame people into a growing group,
and those scattered ones into a strong nation,
and Yahweh will reign over them on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion),
from now and until forever.
8 And you, watchtower for the flock,
hill of the daughter of Tsiyon—
to you it will come—your former dominion will arrive—
the kingdom that belongs to the daughter of Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
9 Now, why do you shout so loudly?
Is it because you don't have a king?
Is it because your advisor passed away
that pain's gripping you like that of a woman in labour.
10 Be in pain and labour daughter of Tsiyon,
like a woman giving birth.
For now, you need to go out of the city
and live in the countryside.
Then you'll go to Bavel (Babylon) and be rescued from there.
There Yahweh will redeem you from your enemies' control.
11 Now many nations have assembled against you.
They say, 'Let her be overrun.
Let our eyes gloat over Tsiyon's fall.'
12 But those enemies don't know Yahweh's thoughts,
and they don't understand his plans,
because he's gathered them up like bundles of grain ready to be broken on the threshing floor.
13 Get going and thresh, daughter of Tsiyon,
because I'll make your horn into iron,
and I'll make your hooves into bronze.
And you'll break many peoples into pieces
and you'll confiscate their unjust earnings to devote to Yahweh—
their wealth will be for the master of the whole world."
5:1 Now come together in battle ranks, daughter of soldiers.
A siege has been set up against us.
They strike Yisrael's (Israel's) judge on the cheek with a rod.

Literal Version

6 In_the_day (the)_that the_utterance_of **YHWH** I_will_gather the_one_who_is_lame and_the_one_who_is_outcast I_will_ _assemble and_which I_have_done_harm_to. 7 And_I_will_make ~~DOM~~ the_one_who_was_lame into_a_remnant and_the_one_ _who_was_straying to_(a)_nation mighty and_ **YHWH** _he_will_ _reign over_them in_the_mountain_of Tsiyyōn/(Zion) from_ _now and_unto perpetuity. 8 And_you(ms) Oh Migdal Oh_hill_of the_daughter_of Tsiyyōn to_you it_will_come and_ the_ _dominion (the)_former a_kingdom_of to_the_daughter_of Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) _it_will_come. 9 Now to/for_what do_ _you_shout shouting a_king is_there_not on/over_you(fs) or counsellor_of_your has_he_perished that/for/because/then/when it_has_taken_hold_of_you anguish like_(the)_who]_gives_birth. 10 Writhe_in_pain and_ _burst_forth Oh_daughter_of Tsiyyōn like_(the)_who]_gives_ _birth if/because now you_will_go_out from_the_town and_ _you_will_dwell in_the_field and_you_will_go to Bāvel there you_will_be_delivered there he_will_redeem_you **YHWH** from_ _the_palm_of your(pl)_enemies_of_your. 11 And_now they_ _have_gathered on_you nations many which_are_saying let_ _her_be_polluted and_let_it_look on_Tsiyyōn eyes_of_our. 12 And_they not they_know the_thoughts_of **YHWH** and_not they_understand counsel_of_his if/because_that he_has_ _gathered_them like_(the)_grain threshing_floor_to_the. 13 Arise and_thresh Oh_daughter_of Tsiyyōn if/because horn_ _of_your I_will_make iron and_hooves_of_your I_will_make bronze and_you_will_pulverise peoples many and_I_will_ _dedicate_to_destruction to/for_**YHWH** gain_of_their_unjust and_wealth_of_their to_the_master_of all_of the_earth/land. 14 16 Now you_will_cut_yourself Oh_daughter_of troop[s] a_ _siege someone_has_set on_us with_rod they_will_strike on the_cheek ~~DOM~~ the_judge_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel).

15 **RV 4:4 · Cross-ref.** Zech 3:10.

16 **LV 4:14 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.1

Literal Version

5:1 [18] And_you(ms) Oh_Bēyt- leḥem ʾEfrātāh are_insignificant to_be among_the_families_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) from_you to_ _me someone_will_go_out to_be ruler over_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_origins_of_his from_east from_days_of antiquity. **2** [19] For_ _so/thus/hence he_will_deliver_them_up until a_time when_ _one_who_is_about_to_give_birth she_has_given_birth and_ _the_rest_of his_brothers_of_his they_will_return with the_ _people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **3** [20] And_he_will_stand and_he_will_ _shepherd by_the_strength_of **YHWH** by_the_majesty_of the_ _name_of **YHWH** his/its_god and_they_will_remain if/because now he_will_be_great to the_ends_of the_earth. **4** [21] And_it_was this_one peace ʾAshshūr if/because it_will_come in_land_of_our and_because/when it_will_tread on_fortresses_of_our and_we_ _will_raise_up on/upon/above_him/it seven shepherds and_ _eight princes_of man.

5 [23] And_they_will_shepherd ~~ḌOM~~ the_land_of ʾAshshūr with_ _sword and_~~ḌOM~~ the_land_of Nimrōd at_entrances_of_its and_ _he_will_deliver_us from_ʾAshshūr if/because it_will_come in_ _land_of_our and_because/when it_will_tread in_territory_of_ _our. **6** [24] And_it_was the_remnant_of Yaʿaqov/(Jacob) in_the_ _midst_of peoples many like_dew from_with **YHWH** like_ _showers on vegetation which not it_waits for_anyone and_not it_waits for_the_children_of humankind. **7** [25] And_it_was the_ _remnant_of Yaʿaqov among_nations in_the_midst_of peoples many like_a_lion among_the_animals_of the_forest like_a_ _young_lion among_flocks_of[26][27][28] sheep which if it_has_ _passed_through and_it_tramples and_it_tears and_there_is_ _not a_deliverer. **8** [29] Hand_of_your may_it_be_lifted_up above foes_of_your and_all enemies_of_your may_they_be_cut_off. **9** [30] And_it_was in_day (the)_that the_utterance_of **YHWH** and_ _I_will_cut_off horses_of_your from_midst_of_your and_I_will_ _destroy chariots_of_your. **10** [31] And_I_will_cut_off the_cities_of your_land_of_your and_I_will_tear_down all_of fortresses_of_

Readers' Version

God promises a ruler from Beyt-Lehem · Southern kingdom

2 But you, Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) Efratah,
even though you're insignificant among Yehudah's (Judah's) clans,
out of you, one will come to me to rule in Yisrael (Israel),
whose beginning is from ancient times—
from everlasting.[17]
3 Therefore God will hand them over to their enemies,
until the time when the woman in labour gives birth,
and the rest of his brothers return to the people of Yisrael.
4 He'll stand and shepherd his flock with Yahweh's strength,
in the majesty of the name of his god Yahweh.
They'll remain, because then he will be famous to the ends of the earth.
5 That one will be our peace.
When the Assyrians come into our land
and when they march against our fortresses,
then we'll raise seven shepherds against them
and eight leaders of men.

God's salvation and his vengeance

6 They'll shepherd the land of Ashur (Assyria) with the sword—
that country founded by Nimrod in its entrances.[22]
He'll rescue us from the Assyrians,
when they come into our land,
when they march inside our borders.
7 The remnant of Ya'akov (Jacob) will end up among many peoples,
like dew from Yahweh,
like showers on the grass,
that don't need help from any person,
and they don't rely on human intervention.
8 The remnant of Ya'akov will be among the nations,
among many peoples,
like a lion among the animals of the forest,
like a young lion among the flocks of sheep.

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17 **RV 5:2 · Cross-ref.** Mat 2:6; Yhn 7:42.
18 **LV 5:1 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.2
19 **LV 5:2 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.3
20 **LV 5:3 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.4
21 **LV 5:4 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.5
22 **RV 5:6 · Cross-ref.** Gen 10:8-11.
23 **LV 5:5 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.6
24 **LV 5:6 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.7
25 **LV 5:7 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.8
26 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
27 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.
28 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.
29 **LV 5:8 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.9
30 **LV 5:9 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.10
31 **LV 5:10 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.11

Readers' Version

As he passes through them,
he'll trample over them and tear them to pieces,
and there'll be no one to save them.
9 You'll use your power against your enemies,
and they'll be destroyed.
10 Yahweh declares: "At that time,
I'll wipe out your horses
and demolish your chariots.
11 I'll destroy the cities in your country
and tear down all your fortresses.
12 I'll destroy the witchcraft that you practise,
and you'll no longer have any diviners.
13 I'll destroy your carved statues,
and the engraved stone pillars from among you.
You'll no longer worship the workmanship of your hands.
14 I'll topple your Asherah poles where you worship,
and I'll destroy your cities.
15 In my anger, I'll execute vengeance
on the nations that haven't obeyed.

Yahweh's challenge to Yisrael · Full kingdom

6:1 Now listen to what Yahweh says,
"Take action, present your case to the mountains.
and let the hills hear your voice.
2 Listen to Yahweh's lawsuit, you mountains,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
because Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people,
and he'll present evidence against Yisrael (Israel)."
3 "My people, what have I done to you?
How have I worn you down?
Present your case against me.
4 I rescued you out of slavery
and brought you out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).[36]
I sent Mosheh (Moses), Aharon (Aaron),[37] and Miryam (Miriam)[38] to you.
5 My people, remember what Moav's (Moab's) King Balak devised,
and how Be'or's son Bil'am (Balaam) answered that king[39]
as you went from Shitim to Gilgal.[40]
Think about that so you can know Yahweh's righteous actions."

Literal Version

_your. **11** [32] And_I_will_cut_off sorceries from_hand_of_your and_soothsayers not they_will_belong to/for_you(fs). **12** [33] And_I_will_cut_off images_of_your and_your(pl)_sacred_of_ _pillars from_midst_of_your and_not you_will_bow_down again to_the_work_of your_two's_hands_of_your. **13** [34] And_I_will_ _pluck_up poles_your_'Ashērāh from_midst_of_your and_I_will_ _destroy cities_of_your. **14** [35] And_I_will_do in_anger and_in_ _rage vengeance with the_nations which not they_have_ _obeyed.

6:1 Hear please ~~ḎOM~~ that_which **YHWH** is_saying arise conduct_ _a_case with the_mountains and_ the_hills _let_them_hear voice_of_your. **2** Hear Oh_mountains ~~ḎOM~~ the_case_of **YHWH** and_Oh_enduring_ones the_foundations_of the_earth if/because a_case_at_law to/for_**YHWH** with people_of_his and_with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_will_argue. **3** My_people_of_my what have_I_done to/for_yourself(m) and_what have_I_made_ _you_weary testify against_me.[41][42] **4** If/because I_brought_you_ _up from_the_land_of Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_from_household slaves I_ransomed_you and_I_sent to_your_face ~~ḎOM~~ Mosheh 'Ah$_a$ron and_Miriam. **5** My_people_of_my remember please what Bālāq the_king_of Mō'āv did_he_plan and_what Bil'ām the_son_of Bə'ōr did_he_answer ~~ḎOM~~_him/it from (the)_Shiṭṭīm to (the)_Gilgal so_as to_know the_righteousness(es)_of **YHWH**.

32 **LV 5:11 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.12
33 **LV 5:12 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.13
34 **LV 5:13 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.14
35 **LV 5:14 · Note** Note: KJB: Mic.5.15
36 **RV 6:4 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:50-51.
37 **RV 6:4 · Cross-ref.** Exo 4:10-16.
38 **RV 6:4 · Cross-ref.** Exo 15:20.
39 **RV 6:5 · Cross-ref.** Num 22:2–24:25.
40 **RV 6:5 · Cross-ref.** Josh 3:1–4:19.
41 **LV 6:3 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
42 **LV 6:3 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

6 With_what will_I_come_to_meet **YHWH** will_I_bow_myself_
_down to_the_god_of height will_I_come_to_meet_him with_
_burnt_offerings with_calves sons_of a_year. **7** Will_ **YHWH** _
_he_take_pleasure in_thousands_of rams in_tens_of_thousands_
_of torrents_of oil will_I_give firstborn_of_my transgression_of_
_my the_fruit_of my_belly_of_my the_sin_of my_self_of_my.
8 He_has_told to/for_yourself(m) Oh_humankind what is_good
and_what is_**YHWH** requiring from_you if/because (if) to_do
justice and_the_love_of covenant_loyalty and_to_be_modest to_
_walk with god_of_your. **9** The_voice_of **YHWH** to_city it_calls_
_out and_success it_will_see your(ms)_name hear Oh_tribe and_
_whoever he_appointed_it. **10** Still are_there house_of the_
_wicked treasures_of wickedness and_an_'ēyfāh_of scantness
accursed. **11** Will_I_be_clean with_balances_of wickedness and_
_with_a_bag_of weights_of deceit. **12** Which its_rich_of_people
they_are_full violence and_inhabitants_of_its they_speak
falsehood and_tongue_of_their is_deceit in_mouth_of_their.
13 And_also I I_will_make_sick by_striking_you I_will_make_
_desolate_you on sins_of_your. **14** You you_will_eat and_not
you_will_be_satisfied and_emptiness_of_your will_be_of_in_
_your_midst and_you_will_carry_away and_not you_will_bring_
_to_safety and_which you_will_bring_to_safety to_sword I_will_
_give. **15** You you_will_sow and_not you_will_reap you you_will_
_tread olive[s] and_not you_will_anoint_yourself oil and_new_
_wine and_not you_will_drink wine. **16** And_it_has_been_kept
the_regulations_of ʿOmrī and_all/each/any/every (the)_deed_
_of the_house_of 'Aḥ'āv and_you(pl)_have_walked in_schemes_
_of_their so_as I_to_make you into_a_horror and_inhabitants_
_of_its into_hissing and_the_reproach_of my_people_of_my
you(pl)_will_bear.

7:1 Woe to_me if/because I_have_become like_gathering(s)_of
summer_fruit like_gleanings_of the_grape_harvest there_is_not
a_cluster_of_grapes to_eat an_early_fig appetite_of_my it_
_craves. **2** The_faithful he_has_perished from the_earth/land
and_an_upright_person among_humankind there_is_not of_
_them_of_all for_blood(s) they_lie_in_wait each ~~DOM~~ brother_
_of_his they_hunt a_net. **3** Are_on (the)_evil both_hands to_do_

Readers' Version

The desire of Master God

6 What should I bring to Yahweh,
as I bow down to the high God?
Should I come to him with burnt offerings,
with year-old calves?
7 Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams,
or with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Should I sacrifice my oldest child to pay for my disobedience—
my biological offspring to pay for my own sin?
8 He has told humanity what is good,
and what Yahweh requires from you:
Act justly,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with your god.[43]
9 Yahweh is making an announcement to the city—
even now wisdom is calling out to you:
"Pay attention to the rod of punishment,
and to the one who has put it in place.
10 There's dishonest wealth in wicked people's houses,
along with hated false weights and measures.
11 Should I consider people to be innocent if they use fraudulent scales
or a bag of deceptive weights?
12 The city's rich men are full of violence,
the inhabitants have spoken lies,
and you can't believe a word that they say.
13 Therefore I'll strike you with a terrible blow,
and I'll make you into a desolate country because of your sins.
14 You'll eat but not be satisfied—your emptiness will remain inside you.
You'll store goods away but not be able to save them, and what you do save I will be taken by force.
15 You'll sow, but not harvest.
You'll tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with their oil.
You'll press grapes, but not drink the wine.
16 As a city, you've kept the regulations made by King Omri,[44]
and behaved similarly to Ahav's evil descendants.[45]
You walk by their advice, so I'll make you into a ruin.
People will hiss at your inhabitants,
and my people will mock you."

Dysfunctional society

7:1 I'm miserable because I've become
like the gathering of left-over fruit,
and like the grapes that have already been gleaned.
There's no grape clusters to eat,
and none of the ripe early figs that I really felt like.
2 The faithful people have disappeared from the land.

43 **RV 6:8 · Cross-ref.** Deu 10:12-13.

44 **RV 6:16 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 16:23-28.

45 **RV 6:16 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 16:29-34; 21:25-26.

Readers' Version

There is no godly person among all mankind.
They all lie in wait to shed blood—
each one hunts his own fellow countryman with a net.
3 They're very good at doing harm:
the leader asks for money,
the judge is ready for bribes,
and the powerful man is telling others what he wants to obtain,
and so they scheme together.
4 The best of them is like a thorn-bush.
The most upright is worse than a prickly hedge.
It's the day foretold by your watchmen—
the day of your punishment.
Now is the time of their confusion.
5 Don't trust any neighbour.
Put no confidence in any friend.
Be careful about what you say
even to the woman who lies in your arms,
6 because sons dishonour their fathers,
daughters rise up against their mothers,
and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law.
A person's enemies are the people in their own household.[46]
7 But as for me, I'll look out for Yahweh.
I'll wait for the god who saves me.
My god will hear me.

The saving/explaining of Master God

8 Don't be happy about what happened to me, my enemy.
After I fall, I'll get up and stand again.
When I sit in darkness, Yahweh will be a light for me.
9 Because I sinned against Yahweh, I'll endure his rage
until he pleads my cause on my behalf, and executes judgement for me.
He'll bring me to the light, and I'll see him rescue me in his justice.
10 Then my enemy will see it,
and shame will cover the one who said to me,
"Where is Yahweh your god?"
My eyes will look at her;
she'll be trampled down like the mud in the streets.
11 The time will come for rebuilding your walls.
On that day your boundaries will be greatly expanded.
12 On that day your people will come to you,
from Ashur (Assyria) and the cities in Mitsrayim (Egypt),
from Mitsrayim to the Perat (Euphrates) River,
from sea to sea,
and from mountain to mountain.
13 But the land will be desolate
because of the people who are living there,

Literal Version

_it_well the_official is_asking and_the_judge for_bribe[474849]
and_the_great_person he is_speaking the_desire_of his_self_of_
_his and_they_weave_it. **4** Their_good_of_person is_like_a_
_thorn-bush an_upright_person more_than_a_thorn_hedge
the_day_of your_watchmen punishment_of_your it_has_come
now confusion_of_their it_will_be. **5** Do_not believe in_a_
_neighbour do_not trust in_a_close_friend from_the_woman_
_who_lies_of your_bosom_of_your guard the_openings_of your_
_mouth_of_your. **6** If/because a_son is_treating_with_contempt
a_father a_daughter is_arising on_mother_of_her a_
_daughter-in-law on_mother-in-law_of_her are_the_enemies_of
a_person the_people_of his_own_household_of_his. **7** And_I for_
_**YHWH** I_will_watch I_will_wait for_the_god_of my_salvation_
_of_my he_will_hear_me god_of_my.

8 Do_not rejoice my_enemy_of_my to_me if/because I_have_
_fallen I_will_arise if/because I_sit in_darkness **YHWH** will_be_
_light to_me. **9** The_rage_of **YHWH** I_will_bear if/because I_
_have_sinned to_him/it until that he_will_conduct case_of_my
and_he_will_do justice_of_my he_will_bring_me_out to_the_
_light I_will_look on_righteousness_of_his. **10** And_ enemy_of_
_my _she_will_see and_it_will_cover_her shame who_says to_
_me where_is_he **YHWH** god_of_your eyes_of_my they_will_
_look on_her now she_will_become (into)_a_trampling_place
like_the_mud_of the_streets. **11** A_day to_build walls_of_your a_
_day (the)_that a_boundary it_will_be_far. **12** A_day that and_
_to_you someone_will_come (to)_from 'Ashshūr and_the_cities_
of Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and(to)_from Mitsrayim and_unto the_
_River and_sea from_sea and_mountain the_mountain. **13** And_
the_earth/land _it_will_become (into)_a_desolation on
inhabitants_of_its from_the_fruit their_deeds_of_their.

46 **RV 7:6 · Cross-ref.** Mat 10:35-36; Luk 12:53.

47 **LV 7:3 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

48 **LV 7:3 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

49 **LV 7:3 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

14 Shepherd people_of_your with_rod_of_your the_flock_of your_inheritance_of_your which_dwells_of (of)_alone a_forest in_the_middle a_garden-land let_them_graze Bāshān and_Gil'ād like_the_days_of antiquity. **15** Like_the_days_of you_came_out from_the_land_of Mitsrayim I_will_show_him wonders. **16** Nations they_will_see and_they_will_be_ashamed from_all strength_of_their they_will_put a_hand over a_mouth ears_of_ _their they_will_be_deaf. **17** They_will_lick_up dust like_snake like_things_which_crawl_of the_earth they_will_quake from_ _strongholds_of_their to **YHWH** god_of_our they_will_be_in_ _dread and_they_will_be_afraid from_you. **18** Who is_a_god like_you who_forgives iniquity and_who_passes over transgression to_the_remnant_of his_inheritance_of_his not he_keeps_hold_of forever_forever anger_of_his if/because is_ _one_desiring covenant_loyalty he. **19** He_will_return he_will_ _have_compassion_on_us he_will_subdue iniquities_of_our and_you_will_throw in_the_depths_of the_sea all_of sins_of_ _their. **20** You_will_give faithfulness to_Ya'ₐqoѵ/(Jacob) covenant_loyalty to_'Aѵrāhām which you_swore to_fathers_of_ _our from_days_of antiquity.

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Readers' Version

because of the fruit of their actions.

God's mercy towards Yisrael

14 Shepherd your people with your staff—
the flock of your inheritance.
They live alone in a forest,
surrounded by pastureland.
Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the old days.
15 Just like in the days when you were rescued out of Mitsrayim (Egypt),
I'll display miracles to them.
16 The nations will see and be ashamed of all their power.
They'll put their hands over their mouths—
and act like their ears are deaf.
17 They'll lick the dust like a snake—
like creatures that crawl on the earth.
They'll be trembling as they come out of their fortresses.
They'll come with fear to you, our god Yahweh,
and they'll be afraid because of you.
18 What other God is there like you, who takes away sin?
Who forgives the disobedience of the remnant of his inherited people?
He doesn't stay angry forever,
because he happily demonstrates his loyal commitment.
19 You'll have compassion on us yet again.
You'll wipe away our disobedience.
You will throw all our sins into the deepest parts of the sea.
20 You'll give truth to Ya'akov (Jacob)
and loyal commitment to Avraham,
as you promised to our ancestors long ago.

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