

## The Book of Micah

### “Who is like Yah?”

#### Chapter 5

#### Micah 5, Chiastic structure

- I. Jerusalem under siege. 5
- II. A future Davidic ruler. 2-5a
- III. Repulse & rule over Assyria. 5b-6
- IV. A future, victorious remnant. 7-9
- V. Coming loss with cleansing. 10-15

#### Micah 5:1, Jerusalem under siege

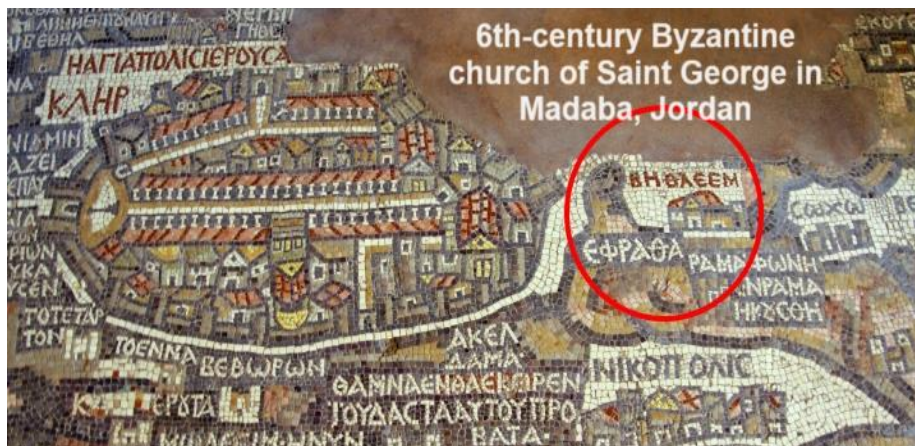
- Foretelling Babylonian attack.
- Contempt and impotence. Assyrian & Babylonian akitu festival.

#### Babylonian captivity (BCE)

- 605 Jehoiakim, tribute to Nebuchadnezzar II, Daniel.
- 597 Jehoiachin deposed, 1st major deportation.
- 594 Zedekiah’s anti-Babylonian conspiracy.
- 587 Siege and fall of Jerusalem. Temple destroyed.
- 583 Governor Gedaliah assassinated, flee to Egypt.
- 538 Decree of Cyrus allowed Jews to return.
- 515 Foundation of the Second Temple laid.

#### Micah 5:2-5a, A future Davidic ruler

- Rule: Contrast ‘ruler’ in verse 1.
- Origin: Assyrian kings claimed to be descended from or enthroned by gods.
- She: Isa. 7:14. Ahaz (r. 732-716).
- Return: Hezekiah’s revival (r. 716-687).



#### King David (BCE)

- 1035 David born in Bethlehem, Ephrata, Judah.
- 1025 Samuel anoints David as the future king.
- 1004 David captures Jerusalem from Jebusites.

## Micah Chapter 5

- 993 David is anointed king of Judah at Hebron.
- 988 David moves to Jerusalem.
- ±970 Yahweh promises David a lineage forever.
- 963 David charges to build the Jerusalem temple.
- 953 David dies after 40-year reign.

### Micah 5:5b-6, Repulse & rule over Assyria

- Assyrians: Territory occupied by Seleucid Greeks from 3rd century BC.
- Rulers: The Maccabees. 1 Mac 4:18-24.
- Nimrod: Went to Assyria, built Nineveh.

### Maccabean revolt, Book of 1 Macc (BCE)

- 331 Alexander defeats Persian emperor Darius II.
- 312 Seleucus I Nicator founds a Greek empire across Mesopotamia, including Babylonia and Assyria.
- 167 Hellenizing Seleucid king Antiochus IV desecrates Jerusalem temple.
- 165 Judean Maccabees defeat Seleucid army.
- 164 Rededicate temple, restore Jewish worship.
- 160 Independent Jewish state, Hasmonean dynasty.
- 141 Parthian Mithridates I ends Seleucid empire.

### Micah 5:7-9, A future, victorious remnant

- Remnant: Returnees from Babylonia.
- Peoples: Samaritans (mixed), Syrians (Greek), Romans (pagan).
- Hand: Messianic rule, Luke 1:71; 3:17.
- Cut off: Defeated, banished, killed or converted.

### Micah 5:10-15, Coming loss, followed by cleansing

- That day: Deportation to Babylon.
- (1) Cut off: Loss of material defenses.
- (2) Cut off: Loss of spiritual defenses.
- Sacred: Religious 'aids to worship'.
- Obey: Submit to Assyrian or Babylonian rule.

### Micah's predictions (chapter 5)

- Babylonian siege of Jerusalem.
- Judah's & others' Babylonian captivity.
- Return to Judah.
- Assyrian (Seleucid) invasion.
- Maccabean revolt & Hasmoneans.
- Messianic ruler from David's lineage.
- Messiah's rules over Judah's enemies.

### Importance of Micah 5

- Micah meets the qualification of a true prophet:
  - (1) his predictions come true, and (2) he speaks for Yahweh alone.
- Micah's fulfilled predictions increase our expectation that his remaining ones will also be fulfilled.
- The biblical prophets deserve our study and our trust.