

# Book of Micah

Chap. 7  
vs. 1-6

HHBC



*Micah's Lament over Decadent Society*

Holly Hills Bible Church

9:00 a.m. Micah Class Study . 16 February 2025 . #18

# Micah: It's Chiasm (a Hebrew Poetry Pattern)



ADAPTED FROM: LITERARY STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE; HAJIME MURAI-  
HTTP://WWW.BIBLE.LITERARYSTRUCTURE.INFO/BIBLE/33\_MICAH\_E\_1.HTML

Crimes & Sins

1: Judgment against Assyria [1:1-7]

Sins

2: Doom of the Cities of Judah [1:8-16]

Punishment

3: Social Evils Denounced [2: 1-13]

Hear 3:1

b. Wickedness (3:10)

4: Wicked Rulers & Prophets [3: 1-12]

The Mount of the Lord

5: Restoration promised after exile [4: 1-14]

*Fold here:*

VICTORY: vs. foreign countries

6: The Ruler from Bethlehem [5: 1-8]

VICTORY: vs. foreign countries

7: The Future Role of the remnant [5: 9-14]

The Mount of the Lord

8: God Challenges Israel [6: 1-8]

b. Wickedness (6:10)

Hear (6:9)

9: Cheating & Violence to be punished [6:9-16]

Punishment

10: The total corruption of the people [7:1-8]

Sins

11: Penitence & Trust in God [7:9-13]

Crimes & Sins

12: God's Compassion and Steadfast Love [7:18-20]

## Review of Chap. 6



- i. Chapter 6 was God's 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Hear now what the Lord is saying' section
- ii. ... 'arise, plead your case before the mountains' . . . God is the prosecuting attorney
- iii. 6:2 – 'the Lord has a case against His people'
- iv. He pleads with them . . . 'what have I done to you?' . . . 'how have I wearied you?'
- v. He lays out evidence of His faithfulness in bringing them out of the land of Egypt, giving them shepherds, Moses, Aaron and Miriam
- vi. Israel (responding through Micah) says: '*. . . how can will make it up to you! .... Can I double and triple down on my offerings to you? . . .*'
- vii. No, God says, all I desire is that you do what is good: practice justice, love kindness and to walk humbly before Me (which in subtext He says: you cannot do, and will not to do)
- viii. God continues to highlight even more of their sins: deceptive measures and scales etc.
- ix. He lays out the spiritual famine that they will endure because of these sins; lack of satisfaction, lack of physical and material well-being, possibly famine and the like . . .



## Micah 7, verses 1-7

1 Woe is me! For I am  
Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers.  
There is not a cluster of grapes to eat,  
Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.

2 The godly person has perished from the land,  
And there is no upright person among men.  
All of them lie in wait for bloodshed;  
Each of them hunts the other with a net.

3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well.  
The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe,  
And a great man speaks the desire of his soul;  
So they weave it together.

4 The best of them is like a briar,  
The most upright like a thorn hedge.  
The day when you post your watchmen,  
Your punishment will come.  
Then their confusion will occur.

5 Do not trust in a neighbor;  
Do not have confidence in a friend.  
From her who lies in your bosom  
Guard your lips.

6 For son treats father contemptuously,  
Daughter rises up against her mother,  
Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the  
LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation.  
My God will hear me.



1 Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.

## Woe is Me!

The Woes of scripture-

- Jude 1:11: Woe to them! For they have gone the way of **Cain**, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of **Balaam**, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
- Revelation: the 3 'Woes'
- *'Woe to you scribes and pharisees' 'Woe to you Chorazin, woe to you Bethsaida...'* etc. by Jesus, many references in Matthew, Mark, Luke

*... a pronouncement of a fearful and unqualified sentence...* Mercy for them there is not. Their offence has been so flagrant and their self-will so stubborn that only "woe" is their portion, unless their eyes should be opened, and, humbled on account of their guilt and state, they turn from their evil ways with repentance towards God and faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For," says the Spirit of God, "they have gone in the way of Cain," that is the first charge against them. They, like Cain, were not irreligious, but they approached God after a fashion of their own. They did not bring "blood"; they denied atonement by blood; they ignored the true nature of sin, and the fact of their own guilt. Their religion was one of personal merit, and based on the ground of good works - beautiful fruits of a cursed soil!

Such was the way of Cain, and such was their way - the way of multitudes of teachers of modern and apostatizing Christianity. "Woe unto them." [Capt. J. Wilson Smith]

1 Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat,  
Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.

2 The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright person among men. All of them lie  
in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.



What does it mean that there is lack of clusters of grapes, and no first-ripe fig?

**Either:** there has been a harvest where there is a lack of a good grape crop delineating lean times

**Or:** the pickers just harvested, leaving the orchard bare, and you have just arrived and find no grapes.

POETIC USE of the simile pattern ; note the figurative language:

**LIKE:**

Fruit pickers & grape gatherers: find no grapes to eat or a first-ripe fig 'which I crave'

**AS:**

No upright or godly person can be found in Israel

***IN FACT:***

the case is worse than just not finding any godly, upright Israelites in Judah:

there is rank treachery among them . . . .

2 The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright person among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.



**The Characteristics of Israel & its leaders:**

⇒ lying in wait to shed blood (7:2)

⇒ hunt each other with nets (7:2)

3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well. The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe, And a great man speaks the desire of his soul; So they weave it together.

⇒ do evil very well, in fact both hands are adept at it! (7:3)

⇒ not only the prince, but even a judge will ask for a bribe! (7:3)

The rich man of influence desires to bring someone ruin and enlists the prince & judge to bring it about; weaving their scheme as one would a basket [see: Sir Walter Scott, 1808]

vs. 3 recapitulates on theme from Micah 3:1-3:

“Hear now, heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice? You who hate good and love evil, Who tear off their skin from them And their flesh from their bones, And who eat the flesh of my people, Strip off their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them up as for the pot And as meat in a kettle.”

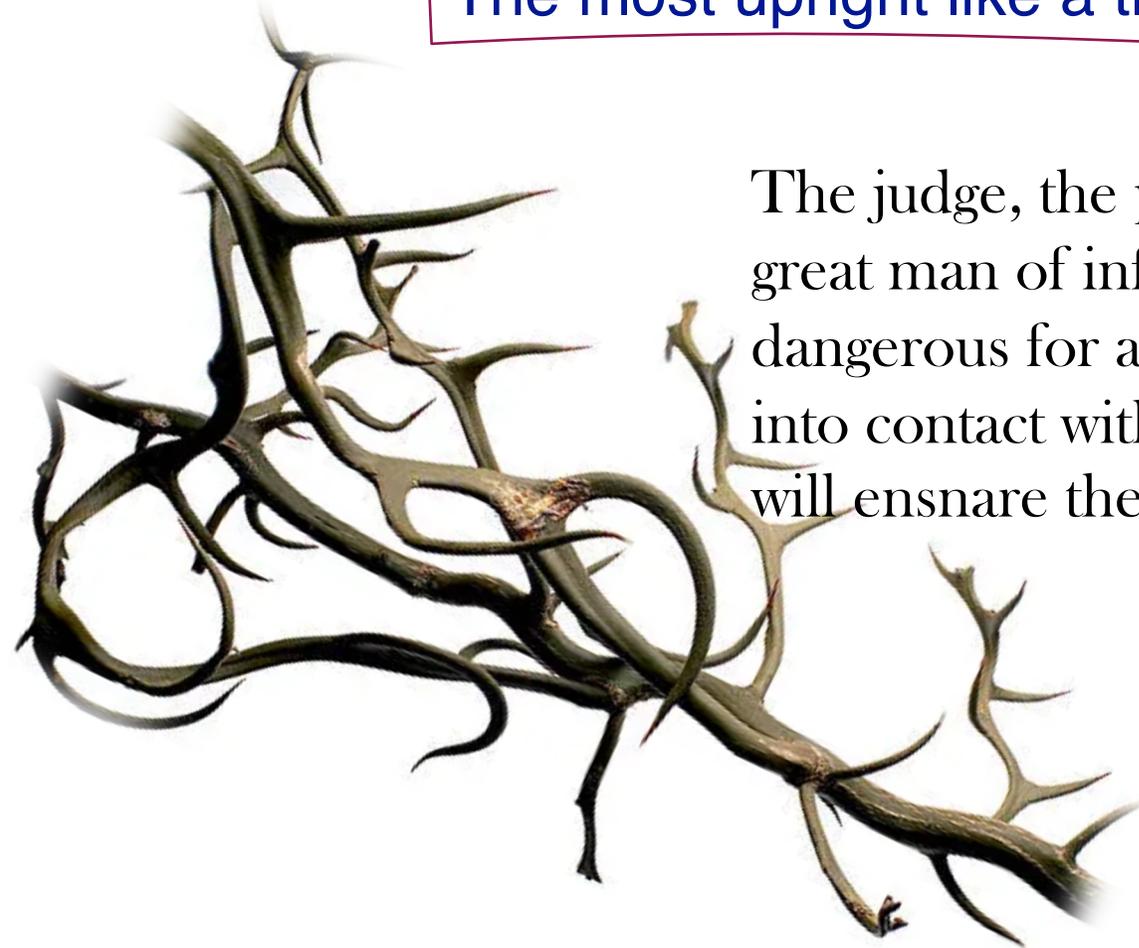
Note: the hunting / hunted metaphor used here and in Ps. 14:4 & Eze. 24:3 (See HHBC handout on Micah Study No. 8 / 12.25.24 Bob Eckel) –

What can we make of this hunting and flesh-eating metaphor?

## More use of the simile-figurative pattern in Chapter 7:



v.4 – (a.) The best of them is like a briar,  
The most upright like a thorn hedge. . . .



The judge, the prince, and the great man of influence are dangerous for anyone who comes into contact with them . . . They will ensnare the innocent



4 (b.) . . . . The day when you post your watchmen, Your punishment will come. Then their confusion will occur.

A Watchman in ancient Israel:

- Literal – a man posted on a city wall to scan out to the horizon in search of coming danger, and to warn city inhabitants of approaching hostiles.
- Spiritual – a prophet who scans out to the future horizon (with God’s imputed vision in him) to warn of future calamity and judgment
- The Hebrew root means ‘to lean forward, to peek’

Constable has:

*God's watchmen, had announced coming punishment from Yahweh. Yet the people had not heeded their cries of danger. When captivity came, the result would be confusion among the people. \**

Ezekiel 33 is a very clear job description for a Prophet- Watchman:

\* NOTES ON MICAH, DR. THOMAS L. CONSTABLE, ED. 2002, SONIC LIGHT PUBLISHER, P. 27



4 . . The day when you post your watchmen, Your punishment will come. Then their confusion will occur.

God's Expectation of a Prophet-Watchman: true of Ezekiel & Micah:

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, ‘If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, –

4 then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and **does not** take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; **his blood will be on himself**. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life. –

6 **But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned**, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood I will require from the watchman's hand**.’ –

7 **“Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me.** 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. 9 But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

EZEKIEL CHAP. 33: 1 -9



**5** Do not trust in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a friend. From her who lies in your bosom Guard your lips. **6** For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

v. 4 left us with *'then their confusion'* will occur –

in my view: that state of affairs directly is addressed above in v. 5 and 6

If members of your own family, your own inner circle are turned against you (lying in wait to shed your blood, setting a net against you)

Isn't your status quo, illustrated in vs. 5,6 one of confusion? Uncertainty? Loss of what is up and down? The fog of war?

***This sad state of affairs for Israel is beautifully put by Allen:***

"Man is so made that he finds security in a small group among whom he is accepted and receives support. At the heart of the concentric circles of people known to him there must ever be a stable core of friends, and usually family, if his psychological equilibrium is to be maintained. The prophet gradually penetrates to the center of these inner circles of familiarity: friend—best friend—wife. A man is now forced to go against his nature, retiring within himself and keeping his own counsel, if he is not to face betrayal."

THE BOOKS OF JOEL, OBADIAH, JONAH & MICAH- LESLIE C. ALLEN; THE NEW INT'L COMMENTARY ON THE O.T. SERIES; WM. B. EERDMANS PUBL. GRAND RAPIDS, 1976, P. 388



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