

Outline of the Prophet Micah

(Eddy Lanz, October 2006)

1,1 Book title: God's word to Micah concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

A 1,2-4 All nations should hear what the Lord has to say, because the Lord comes out of his holy temple to be a witness against all nations. The mountains will melt under him.

B 1,5-7 Samaria is Jacob's transgression and Jerusalem is Judah's sinful high place. God will make Samaria a heap of the field.

1,8-16 I weep and mourn, because the judgment reaches Judah and Jerusalem.

C 2,1-5 Woe to those who plan iniquity (= the class of leaders). Disastrous judgment comes.

D 2,6-11 The people prefer false prophecy, not the true one. The Lord answers to that.

-E 2,12-13 God will gather Israel's remnant like a shepherd his flock, he will guide them as king.

C' 3,1-4 The class of leaders is rebuked for their sins. God will not answer them in the time of judgment.

D' 3,5-7 The false prophets are rebuked for their sins. God will not answer them in the time of judgment.

3,8 Micah as a true prophet is full of God's spirit to rebuke Israel's sins.

B' 3,9-12 The leaders have build Zion with iniquity and bloodshed, the prophets and priests have cooperated with them. Because of them Jerusalem (with the temple) will become a heap of the field.

A' 4,1-4 But in the last days God's word will go forth from the temple mountain to all nations transforming the world into a place of peace under God's rule.

4,5 Therefore Israel should even now walk in the name of the Lord for ever.

4,6-8 A promise of salvation: God will gather Israel's remnant exiles like a shepherd. God will be king in Zion, the former kingship will be restored in Jerusalem.

A 4,9-10 Zion suffers like a woman giving birth to a child, but God will redeem the exiles from Babylon.

B 4,11-13 God uses Zion as a means to judge the many nations that are gathered against Zion. Zion will smash them, devoting their wealth to the Lord.

C 4,14 Jerusalem (?) will be under siege and conquered and Israel's king abused.

-D 5,1-5a Israel will be given away till the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem who then will stand up, shepherd his flock, rule the world and be himself their peace.

A 5,5b-6 When Assyria invades Israel it will be beaten and ruled by the sword, Israel will be delivered from Assyria.

B 5,7-9 Israel's remnant will be as dew a means of blessing and as a lion a means of judgment amongst the nations. Israel's enemies will be destroyed.

C 5,10-15 The Lord destroys "on that day" all military might and all idolatry in Israel.

A 6,1-5 The Lord's court case: His people, whom he led out of Egypt, should let their voice be heard in this court case before mountains and hills.

B 6,6-8 Man asks about the right propitiation for his sin and transgression. The answer is that the Lord requires justice and love from him.

C 6,9-16 The Lord's voice proclaims a devastating judgment to the city (Jerusalem) and the inhabitants because of deceitful measures, violence and lies.

7,1-4a I mourn because all people are sinful, corrupt and violent, the leaders as well.

D 7,4b The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you.

E 7,5-6 One must be very careful because of the enmity even within the own family.

D 7,7 I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior.

E 7,8-10 The (female) enemy of God's people should not gloat over their judgment, because after the judgment there will be salvation for God's people and judgment for the (female) enemy.

C' 7,11-13 The day comes as a day of salvation and building up again and of gathering God's people from everywhere but also because of sinful inhabitants as devastating judgment.

A' 7,14-17 Prayer (14): May the Lord shepherd his people as in Egypt at the time of the Exodus. The Lord answers (15-17): He will show them his wonders and all nations will bow down before him.

B' 7,18-20 Micah worships the Lord as the unique God who pardons sin and transgression and in his faithfulness has mercy on his people. (Form: question.)