MICAH.

1. 1 The word of the LORD. The only occurrence of this expression in this book: bidding us to receive it from Jehovah, not Micah, and to note Micah’s pen but Jehovah’s words.
the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.
Moraethite = Maresah (no. 18) or Maresheh-gath (no. 18); now Tell Sandannah, in the Shephelah, or plain, between Judea and Philistia. In the excavations at Sandannah the ancient name is seen as Morasse. Maresa was a Sidonian colony (cent. 3 B.C.), and was afterward used as the capital of Gumes by the Edomites during the captivity of Judah (see Records of the Past, vol. iv. part x., pp. 291—296), which he saw. Cp. Isa. 1. 7. Obad. 1. Nah. 1. 1, concerning, &c. This furnishes the subject.

1. 2—3. 12 (A, p. 1259). THREATENING.
(Alternation.)

B | 3. 1-4. The Judges.
A | 3. 5—8. The False Prophets.
B | 3. 9—12. The Judges.

1. 2—2. 13 (A, above). THE PEOPLE.
(Introvers and Extended Alternation.)

D4 a1 | 1. 5. Inimination.
D4 b1 | 1. 6. Threatening.
D4 c1 | 1. 8—11. Lamentation.
D2 a1 | 2. 1. 2. Inimination.
D2 b2 | 2. 3. Threatening.
D2 c3 | 2. 4—5. Lamentation.
D2 d3 | 2. 6—7. Inimination.
D2 e3 | 2. 7—11. Lamentation.

2. Hear, all ye peoples. Micah begins by taking up the concluding words of the other Micah or Micah 1 Kings 22. 5, and recurs to them in 8. 1, 9; 9. 1, 2. Five times, not three, as some say; and forms no part of the Structure of the whole book. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 32. 1), Ap. 92.

all ye = ye peoples, all of them.
all that therein is = her fulness. let the Lord the Lord. Heb. Adonai. Ap. 4. VIII (2).
GOD be witness. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 31. 50).
sins. Heb. chifa'. Ap. 44. i. Aram. and Syr. read sing. What = Whose. is it not Samaria? = is it not Samaria’s (idolatry)? Fig. Erotetis. Ap. 6. high places. Cp. 1 Kings 12. 31; 14. 28. Ezek. 6. 6. These existed in Jerusalem (Jer. 32. 25); hence the mention of them in the further question. Fig. Erotetis. Ap. 6. Cp. 2 Kings 16. 4. are they not Jerusalem? = is it not Jerusalem’s [idolaters]? 6 discover, &c. This has now recently (111) been done in the unearthing of Ahab’s wine-cellar.
7 graven images. Heb. yphelim. Ref. to Pent. (Ex. 20. 4). Ap. 92. hires. The technical Pentateuchal word for a harlot’s hire, to which idolatry is compared. Cp. Hos. 8. 10; 9. 1. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 28), Ap. 92. they shall return, &c.; i.e. the wealth gained by idolatry shall be taken away by the Assyrian idolaters. 8 wall = lament. Cp. the Structure above; and note weight of the prophetic “burden”, &c. Referring to her stroke, which is fem. he = he, referring to some unnamed foe. (4) Aram. and Syr. read “she”, referring to the “strove” of judgment. the gate. Cp. Obad. 11. 13.

10 Declare ye, 4 not at Gath. Cp. 2 Sam. 1. 20.
1. 10. MicaH. 2. 6.

632-663 "at all; in the house of Aophra roll thyself in the dust.

11 "Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Saphir, having thy shame naked; the inhabitant of Zaanam came not forth in the mourning of Beth-ezel; he shall receive of you his standing.

12 For the inhabitant of Maroth waited carefully for good; but evil came down from the LORD unto the gate of Jerusalem.

13 O thou inhabitant of Lachish, bind the chariot to the swift beast: o yesh is the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion: for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee.

14 Therefore shalt thou give presents to Moresheth-gath: the houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.

15 Yet will I bring an heir unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah: he shall come unto Adullam the glory of Israel.

16 Make thee bald, and poll thee for thy delicate children, enlarge thy baldness as the eagle; for they are gone into captivity from thee.

D^2 a2 (p. 1253)

2 Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

2 And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

b^3

3 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: for this time is evil.

c^2

4 In that day shall one take up a parable against you, and lament with a doleful lamentation, and say, We be utterly spoiled: he hath changed the portion of my people: how hath he removed it from me! turning away he hath divided our fields.

5 And thou shalt think then how that shall come that shall cast a cord by lot in the congregation of the LORD.

D^3 a^3

6 "Prophesy ye not," say they to them that prophesy:

b^3

they oppress, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 19. 11, where being Heb. geber. Ap. 14. IV. even. So in some codices, with four early printed editions; but many codices, with six early printed editions, Aram., Sept., and Vulg., omit the word even). man. Heb. ṣāh. Ap. 14. II. 3 the Lord. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II. Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Note. I devise. The contrast to v. 1. evil = calamity. take up a parable. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 23. 7, 18; 24. 3, 13, 20, 23). 4 take up a parable. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 23. 7, 18; 24. 3, 13, 20, 23). 5 cast a cord by lot. Referring to the custom, by which, round every village in Palestine, the land was divided by lot every year to the various families; hence, the expression in Ps. 19. 2: "cord" being put by Fig. Melonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the portion of land marked out by it. It therefore = divide your inheritances. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 26. 53, 55). 6 Prophesy. Do not sputter. say they to them that prophesy = so they sputter. they shall not prophesy. Not the usual word for prophesy, but Heb. mitaph. They = i.e. these false prophets. them = as to these things; i.e. these doings of Jehovah. that, &c. Supply, "laying, must He put away these suppressors".
2.7

O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the Spirit of the LORD straitened? are thine eyes turned away My glory? do not My words do good to him that walketh uprightly? Even of late My People is risen up as an enemy: ye pull off the robe with the garment from them that pass by securely as men averse from war.

The women of My People have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away My glory for ever.

Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction. If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bashan, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.

The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.

3 And I said, "Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know judgment? Who hath hate in his heart for evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; Who also eat the flesh of My People, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.

Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: He will even hide His face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make My People err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision, and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divide; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

Then shall the scions be ashamed, and the diviners confounded; yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divide for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, "Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us."


9 Israel. See note on Gen. 32.28; 45.6; 45.25, 28. of Bozrah: or, with Sept., in tribulation. The member "O" (v. 12, 13) does not speak of mercy, but of judgment, corresponding with the member "G" (1.2-4). Not a complete change, and no promise to a remnant. Cp. Is. 54.6. Amos 1.12. make great noise = be in commotion. men = human beings. Heb. ḫādām. Ap. 14. I.

The breaker = Onemaking a breach. The Assyrian. Heb. ‘ārâb, as in Ex. 19.21, 24. 2 Sam. 5.26. 1 Chron. 14.11; 15.13. Generally in a bad sense. broken up = broken in. gone out = gone forth ... into captivity. shall pass = hath passed through. on = at: for it is Jehovah’s judgment. Cp. 1.2-4.

3.1 Hear. This is no indication of Structure. It is a continuation of the threatening against the rulers (see "B", 3.1-4, p. 1253, corresponding with "B", 3.9-12, below). princes = judges.

Hear—answer. Hide His face. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 31.17; 32.29). Ap. 92. Cp. Is. 59.1-15. Jer. 33.5. err = go astray. bite with their teeth. Alluding to the idolatrous practices of the heathen round the altar of Baal, biting an olive in their mouths and crying "peace", of which the olive was the symbol (Gen. 8.11). Cp. Zech. 9.7. and he, &c. = but against him that putteth not (the olive) into his mouth they declare war. war = crusade.


Judge for reward, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Ex. 23.8. Deut. 10.17; 19.15; 27.16. The same word in all these passages). Ap. 92.
12 Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

4 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 And nations shall come, and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the 'God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And He shall judge among many nations, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4 But they shall sit every one under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

6 In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble that halteth, and I will gather that is driven out, and that I have afflicted; and I will make her that halteth a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation; and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

8 And her tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

10 Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail.

f for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon;

g there shalt thou be delivered; there shall the LORD redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.


8 And I will raise up for my people a righteous David, and they shall possess the land, and dwell therein, and shall be men of truth, who will come forth from the land of Egypt.

7 But they shall sit every one under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

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5. 11 Now also many nations are gathered together, and come against thee, saying, "Let her be defiled, and let our "eye look upon Zion."

12 But the LORD, neither understand they His counsel: "for He shall gather them as the sheaves into the "floor. Arise and "thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine "horn iron, and I will make thy "hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will "consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto "the Lord of the whole earth.

13 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travailleth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; and they shall abide: for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth.

5. 11 Now, gather thyself in troops, O daughter of nations, and set thee in array against her: she shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

8. 2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me. When His days shall be shortened, the king shall be born to the people of Jacob, and the kingdom shall be established and preserved for ever in Israel.

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5. 9. MICAH.

9 Thine hand shall be lifted upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off. Note the Fig. Anaphora (Ap. 6), in the repetition, "cut off", four times in vv. 5-13. All this refers eventually to restored Israel.

5. 10-14 (F, p. 1256). EVIL REMOVED.

F 10 "And it shall come to pass that the L ORD, that I will cut off thine enemies, and I will destroy thy chariots; and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds;

11 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds:

12 And I will cut off, and I will cut off thy witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;

13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and I will cut off, and not worship the work of thine hands.

14 And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee:

15 so will I destroy thy cities.

A M 6 2 Hear ye now what saith the L ORD; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

2 2 Hear ye, O mountains, the L ORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth:

N for the L ORD hath a controversy with His People, and He will plead with Israel.

O P 3 O My People, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O My People, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the L ORD.

P 6 Wherewith shall I come before the L ORD, and bow my self before the high God? shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the L ORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Q 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the L ORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?


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Heb. chātā'. Ap. 44. I.


mercy = lovingkindness, or grace. walk humbly. The Heb. expression (haṭtesē šōleh) occurs only here. This verse embodies the principles governing Jehovah's administration under the Law, but not under the Gospel. Now, He requires faith in the Substitute Whom He has provided for the sinner; and His righteousness must be imputed in grace. See Ap. 60, IX. and 72. Op. also Rom. 3. 23, 24. Eph. 2. 8-9. Titus 3. 5-8, &c. Ap. 6, for the inhabitants.
6. 9. MICAH.

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(And) the man of wisdom shall see Thy name; hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.

N 10. Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

11 Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

12 For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

k 13 Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

14 Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy grinding shall be to thee in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.

15 Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olive, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.

j 16 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels;

17 That I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall reproach of My people.

O 7. Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape-gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

2 The good man perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

4 The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

S 5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.


8 It is the day of thy watchmen. Put by the punishment foretold by thy watchmen. Trust ye not; put ye no faith in. Heb. 'aman. See Ap. 69. III.


7. 10–18 (N. p. 1258). CONTROVERSY.

(Alternation.)

N 10–12. Inimination. Fraud and Deceit.

13 Judgment. Desolation.


10 wickedness... wicked—lawlessness... lawless. Heb. rasha'. Ap. 44. x.

the scant measure, &c. Note the word "abominable" below. In this form, only in Prov. 22. 14.

measure—onaph. See Ap. 61. III. 3 (5).

abominable. Ref. to Pent. Or of six words thus rendered, Heb. z'tam is chosen in Num. 29. 7, 10, 8. defiled—abhorred. It occurs only eight times elsewhere. Ap. 99.

11 them. Supply [her]: i. e. the wicked city.

the wicked balances. Heb. balances of wickedness.


12 will make thee sick. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 26. 15).

14 Thou shalt eat, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 26. 31).

thy casting down—thy dissatisfaction or emptiness. Heb. yeshach. Occurs only here.

shall be in the midst of thee: shall remain in thee. take hold. Some codices, with one early printed edition (Babbinic, marg.), read "take possession".

15 Thou shalt sow, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 34–36).

sweet wine. Heb. tirosh. Ap. 27. II.


that I should make, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 37).

7. 1–10 (O. p. 1258). LAMENTATION.

(Introduction.)

O 1–4. Evils lamented.

S 5, 6. Remedies. Vain.


2 good — gracious.


3 evil. Heb. ra'a'. Ap. 44. VIII.

asketh—asketh [for a reward]. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 16. 19).

4 the day of thy watchmen. Put by the punishment foretold by thy watchmen.

trust ye not. Put ye no faith in. Heb. 'aman. See Ap. 69. III.


the judge asketh—the judge [cogisth], &c. Fig. reward = bribe. his mischievous desire = the mischievous desire of a man's enemies = the mischievous desire of a man's soul. Heb. nephesh. Ap. 13.

they: i.e. the prince and the judge.

wrap it up = weave it together. Occurs only here.

Heb. suffix is fem., so we must supply a fem. noun: e.g. Isa. 92. 7.

4 the day of thy watchmen. Put by the punishment foretold by thy watchmen.

trust ye not. Put ye no faith in. Heb. 'aman. See Ap. 69. III.
7 Therefore 3 I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD, for I have sinned against Him, until He plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness.

10 Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

11 In the day that thy walls are to be built, in that day shall the Lord decree be far removed.

12 In that day also shall thy cause come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of that which dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

14 Feed Thy People with Thy rod, the flock of Thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things; 16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

17 They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of Thee.

18 Who is a GOD like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy.

19 He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

editions, read "and their".
the same word. Occurs only in these two places.
sins. Heb. chāšā'. Ap. 44 i.
sworn unto our fathers. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 50:14, etc.). Ap. 92. See Ps. 105:9, 10, 42.