

## How Shall We Then Live?

### **Warning: Judgment is Coming - Chapter 1:**

From verse 10 to the end of the chapter, Micah used puns and plays on words to talk about the judgment coming upon the cities of Judah. These towns were clustered in the Shephelah – the lowlands between the coastal region and the mountains of Judah. Though Micah used puns, this wasn't about clever word games – it went back to the ancient idea that a name wasn't just your name but that it described your character and your destiny, sometimes prophetically. In showing how the name of these cities was in some way a prophecy of their destiny, Micah showed how our character becomes our future.

<sup>10</sup> *Tell it not in **Gath**; weep not at all;*

The city of **Gath** belonged to the Philistines, and it hurt Micah to think that the Philistines would rejoice at the pain of God's people.

*in **Beth-le-aphrah** roll yourselves in the dust.*

To Micah, **Aphrah** sounded like the Hebrew word for dust, so he told the citizens of **Beth Aphrah** to roll in the dust in anticipation of coming judgment.

<sup>11</sup> *Pass on your way, inhabitants of **Shaphir**, in nakedness and shame;*

The name of this town sounded like the word for beautiful. It wouldn't be beautiful for long, and Micah warned the citizens of **Shaphir** to prepare for judgment.

*the inhabitants of **Zaanan** do not come out;*

The name of this town sounded like the Hebrew word for exit or go out. When the enemy's siege armies would come, the Jewish people would not exit at all – they would be shut up in the city until they fell.

*the lamentation of **Beth-ezel** shall take away from you its standing place.*

The name of this town means the nearby city. When the army of judgment comes, it won't be near and helpful to go to any other city.

<sup>12</sup> *For the inhabitants of **Maroth** wait anxiously for good,*

The name of this town means bitterness, and when the army of judgment comes, the citizens of **Maroth** will know plenty of bitterness.

*because disaster has come down from the LORD to the gate of Jerusalem.*

<sup>13</sup> *Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of **Lachish**;*

The name of this town sounded like the Hebrew word for to the horses. **Lachish** was an important fortress city, and they should go to the horses to fight, but ironically, they would go to the horses to flee the army of judgment.

*it was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> *Therefore you shall give parting gifts to **Moresbeth-gath**;*

The name of this – Micah's hometown – sounded like the Hebrew word for betrothed. Here he spoke of giving the city wedding gifts as she passed from the rule of one "husband" (**Judah**) to another (the invading army).

*the houses of **Achzib** shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel.*

The name of this town sounds like the Hebrew word for deceitful or disappointing. This city would fall so quickly it would be a deception and a disappointment for Israel.

<sup>15</sup> *I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of **Mareshah**;*

The name of this town is related to the Hebrew word for possessor or heir. The invading army would soon possess this city.

*the glory of Israel shall come to **Adullam**.*

This was the place of refuge for David when he fled from King Saul. It would again be a place of refuge for the high and mighty among Israel, when they would be forced to hide out in **Adullam**.

## 2. Why Judgment? The Condition of the Individuals in the Nation – Chapters 3-4

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Micah 2:1-2
- \_\_\_\_\_  
Micah 3:1-3
- \_\_\_\_\_  
Micah 3:5

**Note:** In the midst of condemnation and prophecy of coming judgment is a promise...  
Micah 5:2

## 3. How Shall We Live? 6:6-8

Note: Verses 6-7 Show the exaggerated expressions of man's efforts to appease God.

- \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
Isaiah 1:16-18
- \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Samuel 9:7
- \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 11:2