

## The LORD's First Indictment Continued

Micah 1:8-16

January 17, 2024

Micah 1:1 indicated that the word of the LORD came to Micah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. These kings mentioned in verse 1 were all kings of Judah who reigned in the southern kingdom after Uzziah (792-740BC) and they reigned after Jeroboam II who reigned over the northern kingdom from 793-753BC. During the reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II Judah and Israel experienced economic prosperity. Despite God's goodness shown in this economic prosperity Judah and Israel did not acknowledge God's goodness and instead both kingdoms plunged deeper and deeper into political, social, moral, and religious corruption.

It was in this context that Micah spoke the words of God. In our last study we began the LORD's first indictment which included His sovereign summons, where He called all the earth to "hear", "pay attention", and "behold" (look) as He announced His coming to earth to bring judgement, and not to bring judgment generally but to bring judgment specifically upon His people.

### I. Micah's Lament of God's Coming Judgement (8-9)

*Why might Micah's words in verse 8-9 be surprising, particularly when considering what is said in verse 7?*

To ensure a fuller understanding of the nature of his lament and wailing parallelism is used as he says that he will make lamentation like the jackals and mourning of ostriches. The howl or wailing of a jackal can be a high-pitched howling that can sound like crying and ostriches are known to make a very low, guttural sound.

*What other scenes in the Bible come to mind as we consider Micah's lament in verses 8-9?*

## II. The Expanding Nature of God's Coming Judgement (10-15)

In verse 7 of the last passage, Samaria and the northern kingdom's collapse were declared and in this section of tonight's passage Micah details the expanding nature of God's judgement by detailing Sennacherib's path through Judah. In verses 10-15 there are 12 towns in Judah that are mentioned as Micah connects the names of the towns with what the response would be as Judah was overrun by King Sennacherib in 701BC.

*What does the extent of God's judgment, detailed in verses 10-15, reveal about the nature of God?*

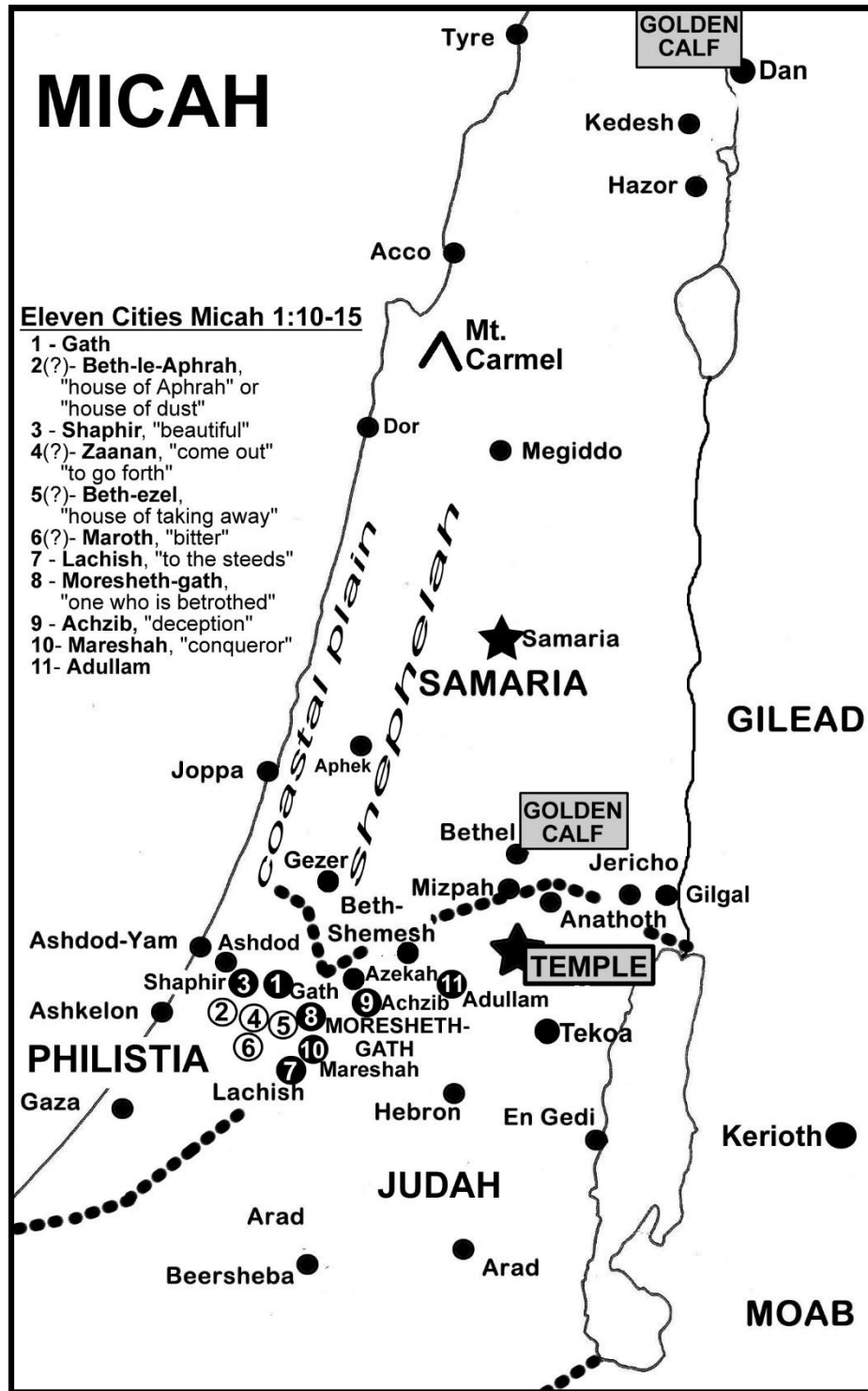
## III. The Appropriate Response to God's Coming Judgement (16)

Verse 16 says that the appropriate response to God's coming judgement is overwhelming grief.

And why is there this call to mourning? The people are to mourn because "the children of their delight" will go into exile. Why are the people to respond with mourning to the carrying away of the children? The people are to respond with great mourning because children represent the future of any people.

This passage coupled with verses 2-7 present a bleak picture, bleakness that is deserved because of the sin of the northern and southern kingdoms. As the bleakness and the hopelessness of Israel and Judah's situations increase, we will see an even greater demonstration of God's mercy and His grace.

*How should we be affected by this passage?*



<https://www.generationword.com/verse/micah.html>