**Micah 5-7**

A Promised Ruler From Bethlehem

**5**Marshal your troops now, city of troops,  
    for a siege is laid against us.  
They will strike Israel’s ruler  
    on the cheek with a rod.

**2**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
    though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
    one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
    from ancient times.”

**3**Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
    until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
    to join the Israelites.

**4**He will stand and shepherd his flock  
    in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
    will reach to the ends of the earth.

**5**And he will be our peace  
    when the Assyrians invade our land  
    and march through our fortresses.  
We will raise against them seven shepherds,  
    even eight commanders,  
**6**who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,  
    the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.   
He will deliver us from the Assyrians  
    when they invade our land  
    and march across our borders.

**7**The remnant of Jacob will be  
    in the midst of many peoples  
like dew from the Lord,  
    like showers on the grass,  
which do not wait for anyone  
    or depend on man.  
**8**The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations,  
    in the midst of many peoples,  
like a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
    like a young lion among flocks of sheep,  
which mauls and mangles as it goes,  
    and no one can rescue.  
**9**Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies,  
    and all your foes will be destroyed.

**10**“In that day,” declares the Lord,

“I will destroy your horses from among you  
    and demolish your chariots.  
**11**I will destroy the cities of your land  
    and tear down all your strongholds.  
**12**I will destroy your witchcraft  
    and you will no longer cast spells.  
**13**I will destroy your idols  
    and your sacred stones from among you;  
you will no longer bow down  
    to the work of your hands.  
**14**I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+5-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22648e)]  
    when I demolish your cities.  
**15**I will take vengeance in anger and wrath  
    on the nations that have not obeyed me.”

The Lord’s Case Against Israel

**6**Listen to what the Lord says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;  
    let the hills hear what you have to say.

**2**“Hear, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation;  
    listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.  
For the Lord has a case against his people;  
    he is lodging a charge against Israel.

**3**“My people, what have I done to you?  
    How have I burdened you? Answer me.  
**4**I brought you up out of Egypt  
    and redeemed you from the land of slavery.  
I sent Moses to lead you,  
    also Aaron and Miriam.  
**5**My people, remember  
    what Balak king of Moab plotted  
    and what Balaam son of Beor answered.  
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
    that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

**6**With what shall I come before the Lord  
    and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
    with calves a year old?  
**7**Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
    with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
    the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
**8He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
    And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
    and to walk humbly with your God.**

Israel’s Guilt and Punishment

**9**Listen! The Lord is calling to the city -   
    and to fear your name is wisdom -   
    “Heed the rod and the One who appointed it.   
**10**Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house,  
    and the short ephah, which is accursed?  
**11**Shall I acquit someone with dishonest scales,  
    with a bag of false weights?  
**12**Your rich people are violent;  
    your inhabitants are liars  
    and their tongues speak deceitfully.  
**13**Therefore, I have begun to destroy you,  
    to ruin[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+5-7&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-22662i" \o "See footnote i)] you because of your sins.  
**14**You will eat but not be satisfied;  
    your stomach will still be empty.   
You will store up but save nothing,  
    because what you save I will give to the sword.  
**15**You will plant but not harvest;  
    you will press olives but not use the oil,  
    you will crush grapes but not drink the wine.  
**16**You have observed the statutes of Omri  
    and all the practices of Ahab’s house;  
    you have followed their traditions.  
Therefore I will give you over to ruin  
    and your people to derision;  
    you will bear the scorn of the nations.”

Israel’s Misery

**7**What misery is mine!  
I am like one who gathers summer fruit  
    at the gleaning of the vineyard;  
there is no cluster of grapes to eat,  
    none of the early figs that I crave.  
**2**The faithful have been swept from the land;  
    not one upright person remains.  
Everyone lies in wait to shed blood;  
    they hunt each other with nets.  
**3**Both hands are skilled in doing evil;  
    the ruler demands gifts,  
the judge accepts bribes,  
    the powerful dictate what they desire -   
    they all conspire together.  
**4**The best of them is like a brier,  
    the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.  
The day God visits you has come,  
    the day your watchmen sound the alarm.  
    Now is the time of your confusion.  
**5**Do not trust a neighbor;  
    put no confidence in a friend.  
Even with the woman who lies in your embrace  
    guard the words of your lips.  
**6**For a son dishonors his father,  
    a daughter rises up against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -   
    a man’s enemies are the members of his own household.

**7**But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,  
    I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Israel Will Rise

**8**Do not gloat over me, my enemy!  
    Though I have fallen, I will rise.  
Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.  
**9**Because I have sinned against him,  
    I will bear the Lord’s wrath,  
until he pleads my case and upholds my cause.  
He will bring me out into the light;  
    I will see his righteousness.  
**10**Then my enemy will see it  
    and will be covered with shame,  
she who said to me,  
    “Where is the Lord your God?”  
My eyes will see her downfall;  
    even now she will be trampled underfoot  
    like mire in the streets.

**11**The day for building your walls will come,  
    the day for extending your boundaries.  
**12**In that day people will come to you  
    from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,  
even from Egypt to the Euphrates  
    and from sea to sea  
    and from mountain to mountain.  
**13**The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants,  
    as the result of their deeds.

Prayer and Praise

**14**Shepherd your people with your staff,  
    the flock of your inheritance,  
which lives by itself in a forest, in fertile pasturelands.   
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days long ago.

**15**“As in the days when you came out of Egypt,  
    I will show them my wonders.”

**16**Nations will see and be ashamed,  
    deprived of all their power.  
They will put their hands over their mouths  
    and their ears will become deaf.  
**17**They will lick dust like a snake,  
    like creatures that crawl on the ground.  
They will come trembling out of their dens;  
    they will turn in fear to the Lord our God  
    and will be afraid of you.  
**18**Who is a God like you,  
    who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
    of the remnant of his inheritance?  
You do not stay angry forever  
    but delight to show mercy.  
**19**You will again have compassion on us;  
    you will tread our sins underfoot  
    and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.  
**20**You will be faithful to Jacob,  
    and show love to Abraham,  
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors  
    in days long ago.