



Micah (parts 2 & 3)

Intro: If the One True God acted in such a manner, intervening even into world history to address moments of crisis and conflict by managing the affairs of the world at that time, why wouldn't He do the same for events that occur during our portion of the time-line of history?

If prophecy and biblical history has proven that God is sovereign over all these elements, knowing how to predict and maneuver all the pieces of it like pawns and princes in the hands of a Master Chess player, why wouldn't He accomplish the same for such circumstances that exist in our day and age?

Re-read Micah 1:1-4 REVIEW NOTE: God's Holy Temple (v. 2)

Ephraim as "Israel" – HQ: Samaria

Irma: explanation of the background of Ephraim as the head of Israel (Isa. 7:9)

* Note: Isaiah states that "the head of Ephraim is Samaria" (not the other way around.)

* Note also that the city of Samaria is actually in "West" Manasseh

We understand Ephraim here to be equivalent to "the entire northern kingdom of Israel." See a [Bible map of the divided kingdom](#) and a [map of tribes](#). Some of the other prophets refer to Ephraim as representing all of the northern kingdom in these selected passages as well:

Isaiah 11:13; 28:1, 3; Jeremiah 7:15; Ezekiel 37:16; Hosea 5:3, 5, 9; 6:4; 7:1

Extra Notes (not recorded on the show)

Connection of 2 Kings 17:7-41 with the Samaritans of Jesus' day (esp. in light of [John 4:20-24](#)).

Ezra and Nehemiah contended with the people (Ezra 9:1-10:18ff; Neh. 13:23ff). Some of these were priests. The grandson of the high priest Eliashib, who also was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite (the same Sanballat who had been causing Nehemiah grief for a while - see [Neh. 2:19](#) and subsequent chapters of the book), was one who refused to comply with Nehemiah's command ([Neh. 13:28](#)). It is believed that these two - Eliashib's grandson and Sanballat were part of the group that began the temple in Mt. Gerizim. (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 11.302-312,322-325)

Chap. 1

Micah 1:5-8 (by Assyria, the "the rod of God's anger" – Isaiah 10:5-7¹)

- Note that Micah is from the small town of Moresheth-gath, some 25 miles SW of Jerusalem
- TIME OF AHAZ (2 Chron. 28:1-6; 2 Kgs 15:37; 16:1-5)

Isaiah 7:1ff battle of Ahaz king of Judah wars against Rezin, king of Syria and Pekah, king of Israel.

Micah 1:10-16

- TIME OF HEZEKIAH (2 Kgs 18, 19) – REFORMATION! (2 Kgs 18:1-8; Chron. 29:1ff)

Sennacherib (son of Sargon II; 705 – 681 B.C. king of Assyria)'s march towards Jerusalem in 701 B.C.

- v. 10 – *Beth-leaphrah* "house of dust" CHECKOUT THE MEANING OF NAMES OF OTHER CITIES Samaria (kingdom of Israel) had already been attacked and inhabitants deported by 722 B.C.
- Sennacherib's prism: "And Hezekiah of Judah (the Judahite) who had not submitted to my yoke... him I shut up in Jerusalem his royal city like a caged bird. Earthworks I threw up against him, and anyone coming out of his city gate I made pay for his crime. His cities which I had plundered I had cut off from his land."

Prophecy of Lachish's siege (1:13) – by Sennacherib king of Assyria in 701 B.C.

- The archaeological site at Lachish contains the only remains of an Assyrian siege ramp in the Near East. The city was captured by the Assyrians, its inhabitants led into captivity and the leaders of Lachish tortured to death. The town was abandoned, but resettled after the return from Babylonia.
- Further prophecy of the Exile (1:16) – note this is by Babylon (not Assyria)

Additional historical note:

Hezekiah's tunnel was 1,750 feet long, and he stopped up the wells and springs throughout Judah during the siege of the Assyrian army under the Assyrian king Sennacherib. You can visit that tunnel today.

Watch this awesome video of Hezekiah's tunnel. Copy and paste this link in your browser:

<http://youtu.be/boC7IOV-1PU>

Relevancy of all this?

The kings of secular, world history (the Assyrian king dynasties: Tiglath-pileser III to Shalmaneser V, Sargon II to Esar-haddon) collide with (and confirm) those of biblical history accounts - those of the evil kings Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel and their ungodly alliance and consequent punishment/destruction by God *through* the Assyrians, as well as for the kings of Judah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Even archaeology shows His hand in these things. He did it then; He still does it now.

Chap. 2

Micah 2:1-2 – compare with Ahab and Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-16)

See Leviticus 21:23-28; Numbers 36:7

Micah 2:3-5 – they, in turn, will have a song sung to taunt them... (v. 4) and will lose and will not be around to measure out or cast lots for their own inheritance.

Micah 2:6-11 – the people do not want to hear Micah's prophecy, and Micah responds: that God doesn't want it to be, and predicts good things for people. But these people do evil things...

The people only want to hear prophecies about fun, partying-type things.

Micah 2:12-13 – the Lord promises deliverance and return to their homeland of all of Jacob/the remnant of Israel, after 70 years... they will be like the noise of sheep, led by their Lord.

¹ Israel kings were so bad; e.g. King Menahem (2 Kgs 15:16ff), father of Pekahiah, who later was replaced by Pekah, paid tribute to Pul. Notice how he treated an entire city, esp. the pregnant women (15:16) and oppressed the wealthy citizens (15:20). Sound familiar?