

MICAH: The Man, The Message, and the Mystery of Tashlich | By Yaakov Beasley

INTRO

Jeremiah, speaking in the Temple: So said the Lord, If you do not heed Me to walk in My law that I have placed before you, To heed the words of My servants, the prophets, whom I send to you betimes, and you did not heed. I will make this house like Shiloh and this city I will make into a curse to all the nations of the earth.

יאמרו השָׁרִים וְכָל הָעָם אֶל הַכֹּהֲנִים וְאֶל הַנְּבִיאִים אִין לְאִישׁ הַזֶּה מִשְׁפָּט מוֹת כִּי בָשָׁם ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ דָּבָר אֵלֵינוּ:

וַיִּקְמוּ אַנְשֵׁים מִזִּקְנֵי הָאָרֶץ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל כָּל קָהָל הָעָם לֵאמֹר:

מִיכָה (כְּתִיב מִיכָה) הַמּוֹרְשָׁתִי הִנֵּה נָבִיא בִּימֵי חִזְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל כָּל עַם יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר כֹּה אָמַר ה' צְבָאוֹת צִיּוֹן שָׂדֶה תִּהְיֶה וִירוּשָׁלַיִם עֵינִים תִּהְיֶה וְתֵרַח הַבַּיִת לְבָמוֹת יָעַר:

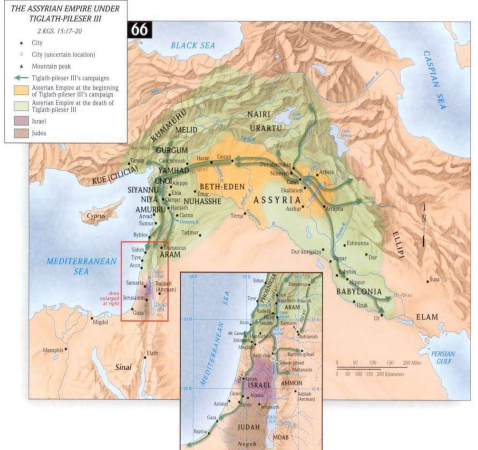
הַהֵמָּה הִמְתִּיחוּ חִזְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וְכָל יְהוּדָה הֵלֵא יָרָא אֶת ה' וַיַּחַל אֶת־פִּנֵּי ה' וַיִּנָּחֶם ה' אֶל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר דָּבָר עָלֵיהֶם וַאֲנַחְנוּ עֹשִׂים רָעָה גְדוֹלָה עַל נַפְשׁוֹתֵינוּ:

Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah:

'This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'

"Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!" - Jeremiah 26:4-6, 17-19

HIS TIME

KINGS OF JUDAH / ISRAEL			IMPORTANT DATES
Uzziah-Jotham	Jereboam II Zechariah Shallum Menachem		745 – Tiglath–Pileser III takes power, rise of Assyrian empire
Ahaz	Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea		734-732 – Syro-Ephraimite invasion of Judah
Hezekiah			722 – Destruction of Shamron, exile of northern kingdom
			701 – Sennacherib invades Judah

THE MAN

I The word of the Lord that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, [and] Hezekiah, the kings of Judah, which he prophesied concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

א:א דְּבִרָהּ אֲשֶׁר הִזָּה אֶל־מִיכָה
הַמּוֹרְשָׁתִי בִּימֵי יוֹתָם אַחָז
יְחִזְקִיָּה מְלָכֵי יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר־חָזָה
עַל־שְׁמֹרֹן וִירוּשָׁלַם:

THE MESSAGE – HOW IS MICAH DIFFERENT

1) FATE OF JERUSALEM – Isaiah 1 / 2:2-4 vs. Micah 3-4

Isaiah 1, 2	Micah 3, 4
<p>1:8 And the daughter of Zion shall be left like a hut in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.</p> <p>2:2-3 - And it shall be at the end of the days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be firmly established at the top of the mountains, and it shall be raised above the hills, and all the nations shall stream to it. And many peoples shall go, and they shall say, "Come, let us go up to the Lord's mount, to the house of the God of Jacob, and let Him teach us of His ways, and we will go in His paths," for out of Zion shall the Torah come forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.</p>	<p>3:9-12 Hearken now to this, you heads of the house of Jacob and you rulers of the house of Israel, who condemn justice and pervert all that is straight. Each one builds Zion with blood and Jerusalem with injustice. ... Therefore, because of you, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the Temple Mount like the high places of a forest. 4:1-2 And it shall be at the end of the days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be firmly established at the top of the mountains, and it shall be raised above the hills, and peoples shall stream upon it. And many nations shall go, and they shall say, "Come, let us go up to the Lord's mount and to the house of the God of Jacob, and let Him teach us of His ways, and we will go in His paths," for out of Zion shall the Torah come forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.</p>

2) SACRIFICIAL EXCESS – Amos 5:21-25 & Isaiah 1:11-17 / Micah 6

Amos 5	Isaiah 1	Micah 6
I hate, I reject your festivals, and I will not smell [the sacrifices of] your assemblies. For if you offer up to Me burnt- offerings and your meal-offerings ... And justice shall be revealed like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.	Of what use are your many sacrifices to Me? says the Lord. I am sated with the burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle ... Wash, cleanse yourselves, remove the evil of your deeds from before My eyes, cease to do evil.	With what shall I come before the Lord, bow before the Most High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings ... Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil?... Therefore I, too, will smite you with sore wounds and make [you] desolate because of your sins.

3) WHAT IS MISSING? (Amos 5 & Isaiah 3, 10)

<p>Amos 4</p> <p>1 Hearken to this word, O cows of Bashan which are on Mount Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to their lords, "Bring that we may drink."</p>	<p>א שִׁמְעוּ הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה פָּרוֹת הַבָּשָׁן אֲשֶׁל בְּהֵר שְׁמִרֹן הַעֲשָׂקוֹת דְּלִים הַרְצִצוּת אֲבִיוֹנִים הָאִמְרוֹת לְאֲדֹנֵיהֶם הַבִּיאָה וְנִשְׁתֶּה:</p>
<p>Isaiah 3</p> <p>14 The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and their officers. And you have ravaged the vineyard; the spoils of the poor are in your houses.</p>	<p>יד ה' בַּמִּשְׁפָּט יָבֹא עִם־זִקְנֵי עַמּוֹ וְשָׂרָיו וְאֶתֶם בְּעֶרְתֶּם הַכֶּרֶם גָּזַלְתֶּם הָעֵנִי בְּבֵתֵיכֶם:</p>
<p>Isaiah 10</p> <p>2 To pervert the judgment of the impoverished and to rob the judgment of the poor of My people, so that the widows are their plunder, and they pillage the orphans.</p>	<p>ב לְהִטּוֹת מִדִּין דְּלִים וּלְגַזֵּל מִשְׁפָּט עֲנִי עַמִּי לְהִיּוֹת אֱלֻמָּנוֹת שְׁלָלָם וְאֶת־יְתוּמִים יָבִזוּ:</p>

1 Woe is to me, for I am as the last of the figs, like the gleanings of the vintage; there is no cluster to eat; the first ripe fig my soul desires.

2 The pious have perished from the land, and there is no upright among men; they all lurk for blood; each one hunts his brother with a net.

3 [In return] for the evil of their hands, do they expect that He will benefit them? The prince asks, and the judge is in the payment, and the great man speaks what is in his heart-and they weave the web.

4 The best of them is like a brier, the most upright, [worse] than a thorn hedge. The day to which you look forward-your visitation-shall come; now will be their perplexity.

5 Believe not a friend; trust not a prince; from she who lies in your bosom guard the openings of your mouth.

6 For a son disgraces 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 household.

7 But I will hope in the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God shall hearken to me.

8 Rejoice not against me, my enemy; although I have fallen, I will rise; although I will sit in darkness, the Lord is a light to me.

9 I will bear the fury of the Lord-for I have sinned against Him-until He pleads my cause and executes justice for me. He shall take me out into the light; I will see His righteousness.

10 And my enemy shall see, and shame shall cover her who says to me, "Where is the Lord your God?" My eyes shall gaze upon her: now she shall become trodden as the mire of the streets.

11 "The day to build your walls-that day-its time is way off."

12 It is a day, and he shall come up to you: those from Assyria and the fortified cities, and from the fortress up to the river and the sea from the west, and the dwellers of the mountain.

13 And the land shall become desolate [together] with its inhabitants because of the fruit of their deeds.

14 Lead Your people with Your rod-the flock of Your inheritance who dwell alone, a forest in the midst of a fruitful field-and they shall graze in Bashan and Gilead as in days of yore.

15 As in the days of your exodus from the land of Egypt, I will show him wonders.

אֶלְלִי לִי כִי הֵייתִי כְאֶסְפִּי-לְקִיץ כְּעֹלֶלֶת בְּצִיר
אֵין-אֲשֻׁכּוֹל לְאָכּוֹל בְּכוֹרָה אֹתָהּ נַפְשִׁי:

אֲבָד חֲסִיד מִן-הָאָרֶץ וַיֵּשֶׁר בְּאָדָם אֵין כָּלָם
לְדָמִים יִאָרְבוּ אִישׁ אֶת-אֲחִיהוּ יִצְוֶדוּ חֶרֶם:

עַל-הָרַע כְּפִלִּים לְהִיטִיב הַשֵּׁר שׁוֹאֵל וְהַשֹּׁפֵט
בְּשָׁלוֹם וְהַגְדּוֹל דִּבֶּר הֵנָּה נִפְשׁוֹ הוּא
וַיַּעֲבֹתֶיהָ:

טוֹבָם כְּחֹדֶק יֵשֶׁר מִמְּסוּכָה יוֹם מִצְפִּיךָ
פָּקַדְתָּ בָּאָה עֲתָה תִהְיֶה מְבוֹכָתָם:

אֶל-תִּאֲמִינוּ בְרַע אֶל-תִּבְטְחוּ בְּאֵלֹהֵי
מִשְׁכַּבְתְּ חִילְקֶךָ שְׁמֵר פִּתְחֵי-פִיךָ:

כִּי-בֶן מִגְבֵּל אֵב בֵּת קָמָה בְּאֵמָה כָּלָה
בְּחִמְתָּהּ אִיבִי אִישׁ אֲנִשִּׁי בֵיתוֹ:

וְאֲנִי בִיהוָה אֶצְפֶּה אוֹחִילָה לְאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
יִשְׁמַעֲנִי אֱלֹהֵי:

אֶל-תִּשְׁמַחִי אִיבִיתִי לִי כִי נָפַלְתִּי גָמַתִּי כִי-
אֲשֵׁב בַּחֲשֹׁךְ יְהוָה אֹר לִי:

זַעַף יְהוָה אֲשָׁא כִי חֲטָאתִי לֹא עַד אֲשֶׁר יִרְיֵב
רִיבִי וְעֹשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּטִי יוֹצִיאֲנִי לְאוֹר אֲרָאָה
בְּצִדְקָתוֹ:

וְתָרָא אִיבִיתִי וְתִכְסֶּה בּוֹשָׁה הָאֲמָרָה אֵלַי אִין
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עֵינִי תִרְאֶינָה בָּהּ עֲתָה תִהְיֶה
לְמִרְמָס כְּטִיט חוֹצוֹת:

יוֹם לִבְנוֹת גְּדִירָךְ, יוֹם הַהוּא יִרְמַק-חֶקְךָ:

יוֹם הוּא וְעַדֶיךָ יָבוֹא לִמְנֵי אֲשׁוּר וְעַרִי מִצּוֹר
וְלִמְנֵי מִצּוֹר וְעַד-נָהָר יָגִם מֵיָם וְהָרָה הָהָר:

וְהִיתָה הָאָרֶץ לְשִׁמְמָה עַל-יִשְׁבֶּיָהּ מִפְּרִי
מַעֲלֵיהֶם:

רָעָה עִמָּךְ בְּשִׁבְטֶךָ צֹאן גִּחְלָתְךָ שִׁכְנֵי לְבָדָד
יַעַר בְּתוֹךְ כְּרִמַּל יִרְעוּ בִשּׁוֹן וּגְלַעַד כִּימֵי
עוֹלָם:

כִּימֵי צִאתְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם אֲרָאָנוּ נִפְלְאוֹת:

16 Nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might-they shall place a hand upon their mouth; their ears shall become deaf.

יִרְאוּ גוֹיִם וַיִּבְשּׁוּ מְלֵךְ גְּבוּרָתָם יִשְׁימוּ יָד עַל-
פִּה אֲזִנֵּיהֶם תִּחְרְשְׁנָה:

17 They shall lick the dust as a snake, as those who crawl on the earth. They shall quake from their imprisonment; they shall fear the Lord, our God, and they shall fear you.

יִלְחֲכוּ עָפָר כְּחֹשׁ כְּזֹחֲלֵי אֶרֶץ יִרְגְּזוּ
מִמִּסְגְּרֵיהֶם אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִפְחָדוּ וַיִּרְאוּ
מִמָּךְ:

18 Who is a God like You, Who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not maintain His anger forever, for He desires loving-kindness.

מִי-אֵל כְּמוֹךָ נָשָׂא עוֹן וְעָבַר עַל-פְּשָׁע לְשֹׂאֲרֵית
נִחְלָתוֹ לֹא-הִחְזִיק לְעַד אָפוּ כִּי-חָפֵץ חֶסֶד
הוּא:

19 He shall return and grant us compassion; He shall hide our iniquities, and You shall cast into the depths of the sea all their sins.

יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמֵּנוּ יִכְבֹּשׂ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת
יָם כָּל-חַטָּאתָם:

20 You shall give the truth of Jacob, the loving-kindness of Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from days of yore.

תֵּתֵן אֱמֶת לַיַּעֲקֹב חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר-
נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתֵּינוּ מִיְמֵי קֶדֶם:

COMPARISON WITH EXODUS 15 – The Song at the Sea

MICAH 7	EXODUS 15
Micah begins his prayer with the declaration: <i>Who is a God like you?</i> (v. 18)	<i>Who is like you, O YHWH, among the gods?</i> (v. 18)
Israel is God's inheritance: <i>Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance.</i> (v. 14) <i>Passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance.</i> (v. 18)	<i>You will bring them in and plant them on your mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your inheritance.</i> (v. 17)
God will perform wonders (Heb. פלא): <i>I will show them wonders.</i> (v. 15)	God performed wonders: <i>[Who is like you...] Doing wonders?</i> (v. 11)
The reaction of Israel's enemies is fear (Heb. פחד) and trembling (Heb. פחד): <i>They shall tremble out of their strongholds, and they shall be in terror and awe of you.</i> (v. 17)	The reaction of Israel's enemies is fear and trembling: <i>The people have heard; they tremble.</i> (v. 14) <i>Terror and awe fell upon them.</i> (v. 16)
The depths of the sea become the resting place for Israel's sins: (Heb. – מצולה): <i>You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.</i> (v. 19)	The depths of the sea become the resting place for the Egyptians: (Heb. – מצולה): <i>They went down into the depths like a stone.</i> (v. 5)
God desires kindness (Heb. טוב): <i>For he delights in kindness</i> (v. 18)	God took Israel out of Israel with kindness: <i>You have led in your kindness the people whom you have redeemed.</i> (v. 13)