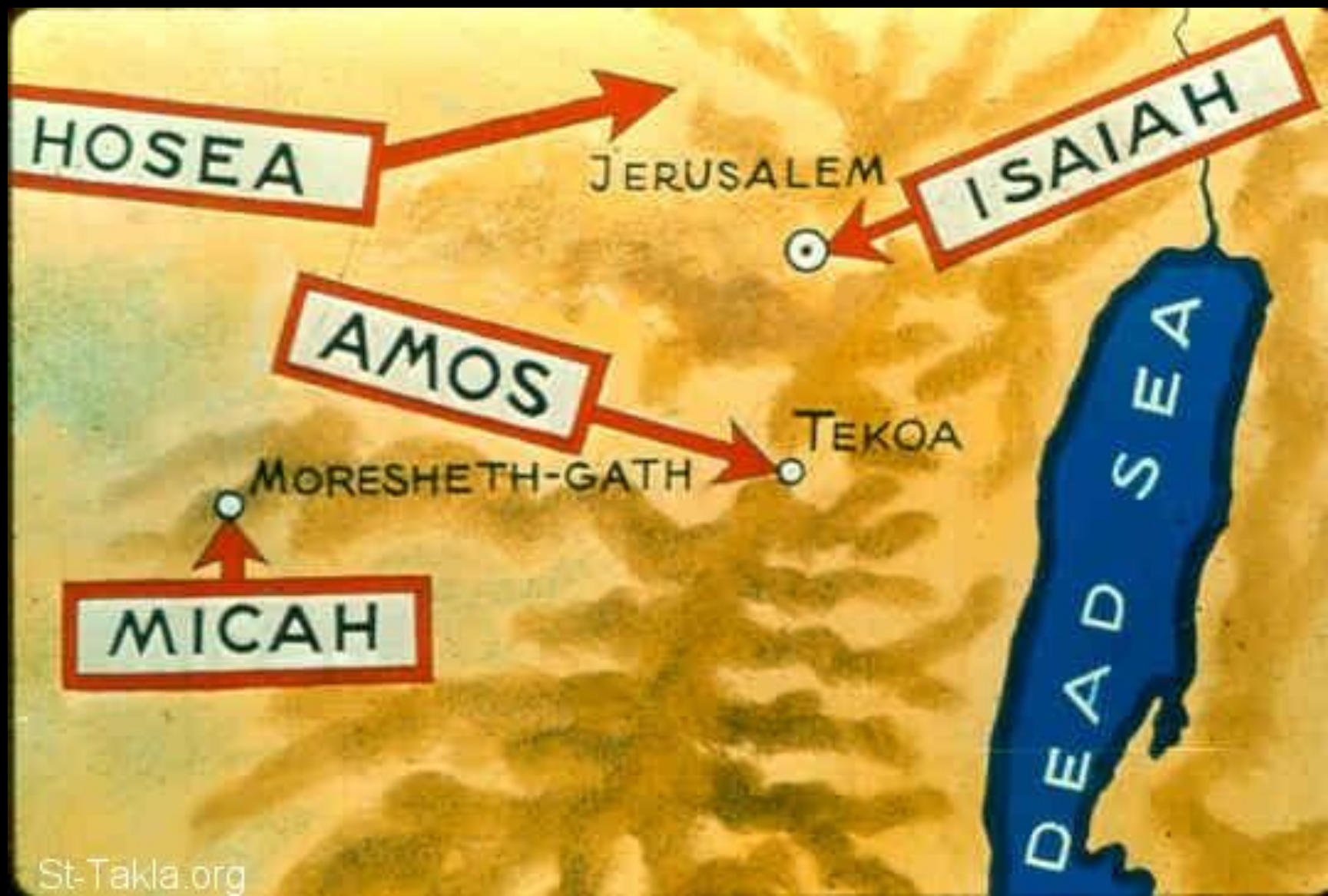


A photograph of a city street on a foggy day. The street is lined with brick buildings of various heights and styles. In the foreground, there are traffic lights and street lamps. The fog is thick, obscuring the buildings in the distance. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

THE MESSAGE OF MICAH

justice and mercy



Micah 4

“4 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, ²and many nations shall come, and say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;

and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; ⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ⁵ For all the peoples walk

each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. ⁶ In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation;

and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore. ⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem. ⁹ Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you?

Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor? ¹⁰ Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

¹¹ Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, 'Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.' ¹² But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor. ¹³ Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron,

and I will make your hoofs bronze;
you shall beat in pieces many
peoples; and shall devote their gain
to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord
of the whole earth.”

Come to the Temple

Micah 4

**God has sovereignly
determined to bless
His chosen people
for His glory.**

Structure of the book of Micah

PART 1	Micah 1 Micah 2	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	Oppressive landowners Remnant, flock to be assembled
PART 2	Micah 3 Micah 4 Micah 5	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	Greedy Rulers and Prophets Temple Mountain Prophecy
PART 3	Micah 6 Micah 7	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	

Old Testament Predictions by the Prophets...

1/ Immediate fulfillment

2/ Gospel fulfillment

3/ Future fulfillment

Outline:

The LORD is...

I. Gathering His People

II. Teaching His People

III. Ruling His People

The Lord is...

I. Gathering His People

(vv. 1-2, 6-7, 9-13)

Matthew 11:2-5

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ **the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.**

Matthew 28:16-20

A. Go and make disciples...

B. Baptizing...

C. Teaching...

The LORD is...

I. Gathering His People

II. Teaching His People

(vv. 2, 5)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

The LORD is...

I. Gathering His People

II. Teaching His People

III. Ruling His People

(vv. 3,4,7)

When God acts as Israel believes he will, it will be not only to rescue his people, but to establish his sovereign rule over the world.

N.T. Wright

Israel's God would return to be with his people, to rescue them, to restore them, to condemn their oppressors, to take charge, to do justice, to sort things out, to rule over them like a king should, but unlike any actual human king they had known.

N.T. Wright



First, Israel's God is celebrated as king especially in Jerusalem, in his home in the Temple. Second, when Israel 's God is enthroned as "king", the nations are brought under His rule. Israel rejoices, but all the other nations will be included as well--- sometimes, it seems so that they will be punished for all their wickedness, particularly their oppression of Israel,

but sometimes too so that they may be brought in to share the life of God's people and join in with Israel's praise of the one God. Indeed, the whole of creation will join in the celebration. Third, when God is king, the result is proper justice, real equity, the removal of all corruption and oppression.

N.T. Wright

Hebrews 12:22-24

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

JOHN TIMOTHY STONE
MOUNTAINSIDE CHAPEL





