

# Jeremiah 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

## Analysis

### **Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah—**

The elders cite Micah (מִיכָה הַמֹּרַשְׁתִּי, Mikah HaMorashti) as historical precedent. Micah, from Moresheth-gath in Judah's lowlands, ministered during Hezekiah's reign (715-686 BC), approximately 100 years before Jeremiah's trial. The appeal to respected prophetic tradition demonstrates that Jeremiah's message wasn't unprecedented innovation but stood in continuity with Israel's prophetic heritage.

### **Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps—**

The elders quote Micah 3:12 exactly, proving the prophecy was preserved in communal memory. The imagery is devastating: Zion (צִיּוֹן, Tsiyon), the sacred temple mount, reduced to agricultural field; Jerusalem (יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, Yerushalayim), the holy city, reduced to ruins (עֵימָּ, iyim, 'heaps'). This prophecy was even harsher than Jeremiah's Shiloh analogy. Yet Micah wasn't executed, establishing legal precedent that prophesying Jerusalem's judgment wasn't capital treason.

### **And the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest—**

The 'mountain of the house' (הַר הַבַּיִת, har habayit) is the temple mount. Comparing it to 'high places of a forest' (בָּמוֹת יַעַר, bamot ya'ar) suggests desolation, overgrowth, and

abandonment—the sacred site reverting to wilderness. This prophecy's preservation proves the community valued true prophecy even when painful.

## Historical Context

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Micah 3:12's fulfillment demonstrates prophetic accuracy. Though Hezekiah's repentance delayed judgment (v. 19), the prophecy ultimately came true in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem. The temple mount wasn't literally plowed, but the temple was demolished, the city razed, and the population exiled—fulfilling the prophecy's essential meaning. The elders' citation of Micah proved decisive: if Micah prophesied Jerusalem's destruction without being executed, and if that prophecy was validated by subsequent events, then Jeremiah deserved similar hearing. This argument from precedent saved Jeremiah's life and established that authentic prophetic criticism of Jerusalem didn't constitute treason.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Micah's precedent demonstrate that God's true prophets often deliver messages that challenge religious and political establishments?
2. What does the preservation and citation of Micah 3:12 teach about the importance of maintaining and studying prophetic tradition?
3. In what ways does the eventual fulfillment of both Micah's and Jeremiah's prophecies vindicate God's faithfulness to His word?

## Interlinear Text

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מִיכָיָה	הַמּוֹרַשְׁתִּי	הָהָא	נִבֵּא	בַּיָּמִים	חֲזַקְיָהוּ	מֶלֶךְ
Micah	the Morasthite	H1961	prophesied	in the days	of Hezekiah	king
H4320	H4183		H5012	H3117	H2396	H4428
יְהוּדָה	אָמַר	כָּל	עַם	יְהוּדָה	אָמַר	כֹּה
of Judah	Thus saith	H413	to all the people	of Judah	Thus saith	H3541
H3063	H559	H3605	H5971	H3063	H559	
אָמַר	יְהוָה	צָבָא	צִיּוֹן	שָׂדֵה	תִּהְיֶה	
Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	Zion	like a field	shall be plowed	
H559	H3068	H6635	H6726	H7704	H2790	
יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	עֵינִים	תְּהִי	וְהָר	הַבַּיִת		
and Jerusalem	shall become heaps	H1961	and the mountain	of the house		
H3389	H5856		H2022	H1004		
לְבָמֹת	יַעַר:					
as the high places	of a forest					
H1116	H3293					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 4:2** (Parallel theme): And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

**Zechariah 8:3** (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

**Micah 1:1** (Kingdom): The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

**Jeremiah 17:3** (Parallel theme): O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders.

**Psalms 79:1** (References Jerusalem): O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

**Jeremiah 9:11** (References Jerusalem): And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

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