

Micah 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

Analysis

Micah's theophany vision declares: 'For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.' The Hebrew depicts divine descent for judgment: 'hinne YHWH yotse mi-meqomo' (behold, the LORD goes out from His place). God's 'place' is heaven, His throne (Isaiah 66:1); His 'coming down' (yered) for judgment recalls Babel (Genesis 11:5-7) and Sodom (Genesis 18:21). 'Tread upon the high places' (darak al-bamote eretz) has dual meaning: literal trampling of mountain tops (v. 4 describes mountains melting) and destroying idolatrous 'high places' (bamot) where false worship occurred. This cosmic imagery portrays God's irresistible power when He comes in judgment. Nothing—geographical or spiritual heights—can withstand His presence.

Historical Context

Micah prophesied during reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (late 8th century BC), contemporary with Isaiah. He addressed both Israel (Samaria) and Judah (Jerusalem). The 'high places' were elevated shrines for pagan worship that Israel adopted from Canaanites, often mixing YHWH worship with Baal elements. Despite periodic reforms, these sites persisted. God's 'coming down' found historical fulfillment in Assyria's conquest of Samaria (722 BC) and Babylon's later destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC). But ultimate fulfillment awaits the Day of the LORD when Christ returns in judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation

19:11-16). The imagery prepares readers: when God intervenes, resistance is futile.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the image of God coming down to tread on earth's high places affect my understanding of His sovereignty?
2. What modern 'high places'—ideologies, institutions, or idols—do I trust that will crumble when God acts in judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְ	הִנֵּה	הִנֵּה	יְהִי	הִ	וְ	זֶה	אֵת	מִלְקָדֶשׁ	וְ	מִלְקָדֶשׁ
H3588	H2009			H3068		H3318		H4725		
For	behold	the	LORD		cometh	forth	out	of	his	place

אֵת	זֶה	וְ	מִלְקָדֶשׁ	וְ	מִלְקָדֶשׁ	אָזֶן			
and	will	come	down	and	tread	H5921			
H3381				H1869		H1116		H776	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 4:13 (References Lord): For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Isaiah 26:21 (References Lord): For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Deuteronomy 32:13 (Parallel theme): He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Psalms 115:3 (Parallel theme): But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Habakkuk 3:19 (References Lord): The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

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