

# Micah 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof.

## Analysis

**Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard** (וְשַׁמְתִּי שֹׁמְרוֹן לְעֵי הַשָּׂדֶה, we-santi Shomron le-iy hassadeh). God Himself pronounces judgment—"I will make" emphasizes divine agency. Samaria, capital of the Northern Kingdom, will become עֵי (i, a heap/ruin) in an open field, so thoroughly destroyed that vineyards will be planted over its rubble. This reverses civilization to agriculture, culture to desolation.

**I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof** (וְהִגַּרְתִּי לַגֵּי אֲבָנֶיהָ וְיִסְדֵּיהָ אֲגַלֶּה, we-higarti lagai avaneyha vi-yesodeyha agaleh). The imagery depicts total demolition—stones cascading down the hillside, foundations exposed and laid bare (גָּלָה, galah, uncover/expose). Samaria was built on a hill; Shalmaneser V and Sargon II (722 BC) fulfilled this prophecy when Assyria destroyed the Northern Kingdom. Archaeological excavations confirm massive destruction layers from this period.

Why such devastation? Verses 5-7 identify the cause: idolatry and covenant violation. Samaria led Israel into Baal worship, golden calf idolatry (1 Kings 12:28-33), and social injustice. Judgment wasn't arbitrary but covenantal—God warned repeatedly through prophets (2 Kings 17:13-18), but Israel persisted. The complete ruin demonstrates sin's wages (Romans 6:23) and God's holiness that cannot tolerate evil indefinitely.

## Historical Context

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Samaria was founded by King Omri around 880 BC (1 Kings 16:24) and served as Israel's capital for 150 years. Despite prophetic warnings from Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea, the Northern Kingdom persisted in idolatry and oppression. In 722 BC, after a three-year siege, Assyria conquered Samaria, deported 27,290 Israelites (Assyrian records), and resettled foreigners in their place (2 Kings 17:5-6, 24).

Micah prophesied during this period (740-700 BC), witnessing Samaria's fall. His prophecy served dual purposes: explaining the Northern Kingdom's destruction to Judah and warning Judah they would face similar judgment if they continued in sin. Archaeological evidence from Samaria shows systematic destruction—burned buildings, smashed pottery, and thick ash layers confirming violent conquest. The city never fully recovered; by Jesus's time, Samaritans were a despised mixed-race remnant (John 4:9).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Samaria's complete destruction demonstrate that religious privilege and heritage cannot protect those who persist in covenant violation?
2. What does God's detailed description of judgment (heaps, exposed foundations) teach about His thorough response to entrenched sin?
3. In what ways might modern churches resemble Samaria—maintaining religious structures while abandoning covenant faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׂמַתִּי י	שָׁמַר וְ	לְעִי	הַשָּׂדֶה	לְמַטְעֵי
Therefore I will make	Samaria	as an heap	of the field	and as plantings
H7760	H8111	H5856	H7704	H4302
כֶּרֶם	וְהִגַּדְתִּי י	לְגִי	אֲבָנֵי יְהוָה	יְסוּדֵי יְהוָה
of a vineyard	and I will pour down	thereof into the valley	the stones	the foundations
H3754	H5064	H1516	H68	H3247
אֶגְלֶה:				
and I will discover				
H1540				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 13:14** (Parallel theme): So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

**Micah 3:12** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

**Lamentations 4:1** (Parallel theme): How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

**2 Kings 19:25** (Parallel theme): Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps.