

Micah

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 1: THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY, 1:1-2.

#1. The Book of Micah reports to the reader that "reality" is dimensional. "Hear, O peoples, all of you; Listen, O earth and all it contains, and let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple", v.2.

#2. There are 3 dimensions of reality; unequal and still inclusive of all categories extant.

- The first dimension: God, the Ultimate. The first dimension is the source of all causation. The first dimension is not only real, it is constituted of the governing personality of all things. The Lord rules from "His holy temple", fountainhead of all reality. The first dimension, as well, puts a prohibition: the human central nervous system and experience cannot be relied upon to supply the definition and meaning of reality.
- The second dimension: time "and all it contains". It follows, necessarily, that the second dimension is the realm of effect. The second dimension of reality is tethered to the power of the first dimension. This truth is pushed into time, circumstances and historical conditions. It came "in the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem", v.1.
- The third dimension: the relational power. The third dimension indexes, links, connects or relates together the ultimate dimension to the transient dimension of time, the material and men in time. The source of all causation is linked to the "earth and all it contains".

#3. Micah sets the record straight. Reality is a spectrum running from absolute causation to the temporal, from God to events, conditions and circumstances. This understanding of reality is not grounded in human experience, it is revealed.

#4. One of the consequences of this eternal arrangement is our behavior in the face troubles and trials. Reality is a spectrum, two-thirds of which is invisible to men.

#5. Among other things, Micah warns against any human attempt to reverse this revealed structure of reality. Certainly no reversal is possible, however the genius of idolatry is devoted to that futility.

#6. In this sense, idolatry and willful disobedience are indistinguishable. Micah is a supernatural correction of those who reason that the second dimension (time/material) tells us how to understand the nature of reality. The prophet insists upon the factor of

the third dimension (index/link), which it is revealed, relates together the eternal and the temporal. It thus presents to the mind the three dimensions of reality.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 2: THE REVEALED SPECTRUM OF REALITY IS ONE-DIRECTIONAL, 1:3-4.

#1. "For behold the Lord is coming forth from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth", v.3.

#2. The Lord exerts power and force upon the second dimension of men in time. The language manifold is precise. The second dimension is and only is at the mercy of the first dimension of reality. As consequence, the revealed structure of reality is one-directional. Reality runs from the eternal to the temporal and no other arrangement is possible.

#3. Upon this revealed understanding rests the Almighty's insistence upon the believers' persistent practice of prayer. The power of God is one-directional. Prayer can affect, therefore, all 3 dimensions of reality! Our prayers can influence the God who "tread(s) on the high places of the earth"; the first dimension. Our prayers can lead to a substantial change in historical conditions; the realm of the second dimension. And our prayers can exert non-trivial influence upon the third dimension of reality; the relational power that conveys the will of God.

#4. This structure is ample motivation for the observance of personal persistent prayer. One of the imperatives deriving from the 3 dimensions of reality is the powerful apprehension that no believer nor group of believers should ever underestimate or undervalue the unceasing practice of prayer.

#5. Since prayer can affect all 3 dimensions of reality, then, no corner of temporal reality is beyond its reach!

#6. Attendant upon this revealed truth is the recognition that faithlessness and disobedience, in general, can equally influence these 3 dimensions of reality. The "high places" represent human attempts to reverse the one-directional structure of reality. The danger and futility of those kinds of behaviors should frighten believers and stabilize the practice of their faith.

#7. "The mountains will melt under Him and the valleys will be split, like wax before the fire, like water poured down a steep place", v.4. Of great encouragement to us is the fact that the second dimension of reality is not on equal footing with the first dimension! This language teaches us that human measurement of temporal/material reality is essentially meaningless. No human measurement can capture the expanse of the 3 revealed dimensions of reality. Faith suppresses human intuition.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 3: SPIRITUAL REBELLION CONDUCE TO DESTRUCTION, 1:5-7.

#1. Being part of the second dimension of reality (time/materiality) carries with it a kind of responsibility and an imposed regimen of obligation --and that put in place by the God of the first dimension. Every one of us is born into a pre-existing spiritual state of affairs. Micah wishes us to know that the second dimension of reality can be a very dangerous place!

#2. "All this is for the rebellion of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? What is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?, v.5.

#3. Those in rebellion had severed the dimensional spectrum of reality apart. The rebels and inveterate sinners saw reality only terms of the flesh. In other words, the whole of reality is comprised of the second dimension. To those people, that was the totality of what is; that was the only reality that mattered.

#4. "Samaria" and "Jerusalem" became embodiments of this limited and dangerous philosophy of reality. It was being perpetuated. It became increasingly intolerable to the Lord and with that, the danger to the inhabitants equally increased.

#5. Micah certifies that the second dimension is not governed by "the laws of nature", but is rather ruled by the God of the first dimension. "For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country, planting places for a vineyard. I will pour her stones down into the valley and will lay bare her foundations", v.6.

#6. Think of it! Rebellion and sin had so epitomized the space taken up by a civilization that the Lord's judgment was that the space could be better used to grow grapes!

#7. At that point in a people's spiritual condition, the third dimension of reality begins to link destruction to the temporal dimension. It is that linkage that assures the destruction. "All of her idols will be smashed (the false symbols in which they put such confidence), all of her earnings will be burned with fire (bankruptcy) and all of her images I will make desolate (they will be abandoned), for she collected them from a harlot's earnings and to the earnings of a harlot they will return" (they were irredeemably immoral and impure).

#8. Our poor lost countrymen! Lost to the ignorance of the three dimensions of reality and living under the hammer of God Almighty! Our poor churches! Bereft, often, of the convicting power of the Word of God!

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 4: THE HUMAN COSTS, 1:8-16.

#1. Micah produces a catalogue of the human costs derived from sin and rebellion against God and against His arrangement of the structure of reality.

#2. Mankind cannot, in actuality, shape their own reality. That conception is mythic. The second dimension of reality (man, time and materiality) is at the very end of a causal spectrum (the dimension of supernatural effects).

#3. Accordingly, the second dimension always bears the full weight of the first (God) and that of the third (the power index, linkage) dimensions. The temporal realm (second dimension) is too fragile, too contingent to resist its place in this revealed structure. Jerusalem, Judah and Israel failed to respect this truth.

#4. The costs: "I must lament and wail"; "I must go barefoot and naked"; "mourning", v.8. A way of life was destroyed. The prophet was not insulated from that horror. "Her wound is incurable", "it has come to Judah; ...reached the gate of my people, even Jerusalem", v.9. A social dilation of evil and impurity had spread like gangrene! Social conditions are not innocuous. One's sin is not a private matter. Personal sin must be seen as a part of a larger whole: "roll yourself in the dust", v.10 --an act of self-humiliation associated with an irreversible magnitude of personal anguish. "shameful nakedness", no "escape", "He will take from you its support", v.11. Micah, a prophet, a man in the 3 dimensions of reality, functions to bring supernatural meaning into the situation. The cause of all of this is not political causation, nor mere human aggression; the Almighty was wading in! "weak waiting for good", "a calamity has come down from the Lord" v.12. This is non-linear calamity and the only way to see it coming is through revelation. "Harness the chariot to the team of horses", v.13. The first dimension has declared war and the third is driving the horses! "will go into exile", v.16. Expulsion at the hands of God.

#5. The Bible is an ancient book; but it never goes obsolete. These wonderful ancient words are not just history. These revealed terms take us out of illusions, delusions, dangerous magnitudes of ignorance and indifference. One of the critical categories of faith is the inspired, revealed and supernatural understanding of precisely what reality means! Do we have that?!

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 5: THE NATURE OF MAN, AN ASSOCIATED GENERALIZATION, Genesis 2:7.

#1. "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being", Genesis 2:7.

#2. In the days of Micah, the people of God had departed, yet again, from revealed truth. Why does this phenomenon so characterize human behavior in the second dimension of reality?

#3. Throughout Scripture there is a pronounced insistence upon the existence of a separable soul. We shall presume that the separable soul is identical with the human mind.

#4. It is apparent that the flesh (the brain) does not deal with such issues as right/wrong/moral/immoral/spiritual/secular. The flesh is rather interested in what is or what is not.-- Is there an appetite for something or is there a desired absence of something?

#5. The Almighty has driven a wedge right down into our character between flesh and spirit. The flesh and the mind are not in precise agreement. These two aspects of our nature are always in some state of contradiction.

#6. The two appear to function by two very different sets of rules, or should. Consider the following: "Woe to those who scheme iniquity, who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, for it is in the power of their hands", Micah 2:1.

#7. In that instance, the flesh was determinant of behavior and the better part of man was suppressed. Micah infers that it is the mind, schooled in the Word of God, that must suppress the flesh or all is lost.

#8. The human race, "the peoples" (1:2) were never intended to live in the second dimension of reality by the lights of the flesh. The 3 dimensions of reality are not tolerant of such thought, speech and behavior.

#9. The people of Judah, Jerusalem and Israel gave no attention as how to live in a spectrum of reality built by, governed by, the "Lord from His holy temple", 1:2.

#10. Micah reports that there is only one way, approved by the Lord, to live in this world (the second dimension of reality), while situated at the terminus of such a powerful spectrum of reality that holds us accountable at every turn. We are living in and encompassed by, as all men are, a set of supernatural coordinates

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 6: CATEGORICAL REPRESENTATIONS, 2:1.

#1. "Woe to those who scheme iniquity, who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, for it is in the power of their hands", v.1.

#2. The representational power of mankind (capacity for abstraction, for thought) is not a harmless region of human existence. The realm of human thought is accountable to the Almighty.

#3. It is unambiguous and direct. Representations, ideas, thoughts are categorized by God. Some are iniquitous, some harmless, some are revealed, some faithful, some unfaithful. But none are without category in the perspective of the invisible witness (first dimension of reality).

#4. Our thought world supplies motive, character, language and the calculus for personal behavior. Micah testifies to the fact that our reasoning is intended to take into consideration the three revealed dimensions of reality and not just the second dimension (the terminus).

#5. Abstract "iniquity" practiced in the material world (second dimension), as the terminus, is a means to an end. Such thinking rules out other and greater possibilities and directions.

#6. Categorical representations can and usually do lead to outcomes in the second dimension of reality (temporal order). Right or wrong; moral or immoral; good or bad; incurring blessings or judgment.

#7. Scripture teaches believers to be aware of how individuals think; to take notice of just what ideas and representations are shared and are influential in the larger society. How one reasons, what one thinks is determinant of personal behavior. "...for it is in the power their hands". Things happen in the second dimension because they can!

#8. This means that the realm of human thought is where the story begins, where the history begins, where the sin begins, where the crime, the undoing, the abuse, the injustice, the violence begins.

#9. The realm of thought is judged by God and is, therefore, not without consequences. There is a powerful if not direct relation between how and what we think and our behavior. This explains a great many things.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 7: THE THREE DIMENSIONS FORCE THE ISSUE, 2:2-13.

#1. Micah refers to a culture of theft and rank injustice--"they" --who were driven by greed and an appetite for power; indicative of a false and therefore under-dimensional understanding of reality. "They" had ignored the other two dimensions of reality (the first and third dimensions) and that would be their undoing. "They covet fields and then seize them, and houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, a man and his inheritance", 2:2.

#2. The Bible often voices the extraordinary patience of the Almighty (2 Peter 3:3-9). Yet time and events inexorably contract back upon the violated word of God. Then, at that point the 3 revealed dimensions of reality become a grinder. "Therefore thus says

the Lord, 'Behold, I am planning against this family a calamity from which you cannot remove your necks; and you will not walk haughtily, for it will be an evil time", 2:3.

#3. Their previous dishonest acquisitions were reversed; "...To the apostate He apportioned our fields", 2:4.

#4. Questions surfaced about the nature of God; what was His part in the production of those conditions? "Is it being said, O house of Jacob; 'Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these His doings?' Do not My words do good to the one walking uprightly?", 2:7. The answer was yes; the "Spirit of the Lord" was driving the mechanics of the grinder. The root of all of that was spiritual not political. The spiritual realities had been dismissed as being irrelevant and were trivialized. And that is a persistent and dangerous delusion.

#4. "Recently My people have arisen as an enemy...", 2:8, 9. Human behavior is a history traced within the embrace of the 3 dimensions; at that point no longer history but evidence of their guilt. The then-grinding strength of the 3 dimensions of reality changed the whole character of temporal circumstance; "Arise and go, for this is no place of rest...2:10.

#5. Micah reports that the people of God had become so corrupt they would listen only to corrupt representations. "If a man walking after wind and falsehood had told lies and said, 'I will speak out to you concerning wine and liquor', He would be spokesman to this people", 2:11. That is the last straw.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 8: THE PHENOMENON OF DARKENED MIND, 3:1-7.

#1. Micah teaches that revealed truth and its wisdom are fundamental, necessary to proper behavior within the 3 dimensions of reality. That is, if one wants to stay out of the grinder.

#2. "And I said, 'Hear now, heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice?', 3:1

#3. The leaders' most immediate responsibility was not to set policy but to know "justice". They failed. Evil became systemic and fortified by an irreducible motive. The leaders "hated good and love(d) evil", 3:2. Their minds being darkened, the people they led were only the means to and end; "meat in a kettle", 3:3.

#4. The people suffering at the hands of systemic corruption bitterly complained to the Almighty. However, the Lord turned away from them. "...He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time", 3:4. Why? Because their minds were darkened. "...Because they have practiced evil deeds".

#5. The 3 dimensions of reality, it turns out, deals with individuals. "Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead My people astray", 3:5. The 3 dimensions of reality do not tolerate falsehood at any level. Mercenary motives feeding selfish ends were at war with the 3 dimensions. "When they have something to bite with their teeth, they cry, 'Peace,' but against him who puts nothing in their mouths they declare holy war", 3:5.

#6. A major generalization appears: The generalization is that "darkness" can become a function of mind and a kind of personality. Replicate it and the entire sociology goes dark. It was replicated. "Therefore it will be night for you--without vision, and darkness for you--without divination. The sun will go down on the prophets, and the day will become dark over them", 3:6.

#7. In accordance with the laws governing the 3 dimensions of reality, the contest between the light of revelation and the darkened human mind will draw to a close. "The seers will be ashamed and the diviners will be embarrassed. Indeed they will all cover their mouths because there is no answer from God", 3:7.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 9: THE FORTIFIED EMBOLDENED TRUE PROPHET. 3:8-12.

#1. The Prophetic agenda: The true prophet is hardly subjective; that is, winging his way through historical conditions on his own rationalized perspective. To the contrary, the true prophet, like Micah, is the servant of the 3 revealed dimensions of reality. In other words, Micah is an effect. He is not causal. This prophet in those circumstances represented realities far beyond the inherent limitations of the second dimension (time/materiality).

#2. The prophetic purpose: "...To make known to Jacob his rebellious act", 3:8. Micah was in direct opposition to the thought, speech and behavior of the people of Israel and Judah of the day. Implied here is the prophet's sufficient independence from organized culture. He carried an unpopular revealed message into the core of circumstances; his personal consequences notwithstanding.

#3. The prophetic platform: "On the other hand" (3:8) is a phrase exuding counter-weight to the spiritual corruption driving that sociology. There was a supernatural counter-weight coming to bear on Micah within the second dimension.

#4. The prophetic empowerment: "...I was filled with power--with the Spirit of the Lord--and with justice and courage to make known to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin", 3:8. A great supernatural gulf had been forced into place to separate the prophet from the general collective. Micah had been more than influenced by God; the prophet was "filled with power" and "the Spirit of the Lord". The first dimension was managing this encounter between God and His people. Micah's performance in that mess was not rationalistic, it was personal and still supernatural. A mere man,

performing his duty in the second dimension of reality was endowed by the Almighty with a revealed sense of "justice" and "courage".

The point: The frontiers between the church and the world are spiritual and supernatural.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 10: THE FORTIFIED EMBOLDENED PROPHET, 3:8-12.

#5. The unscrupulous: "Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and twist everything that is straight, who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with violent injustice", 3:9, 10. Micah was brought into the situation specifically to confront the historical conditions on the ground (second dimension.) There were those of strong wills who manipulated the collective ("heads of the house", "the rulers of the house") and then, there were those who had been manipulated into the shape of the collective. Fair dealing, observance of revealed "justice" was abhorrent to the manipulators and manipulated alike. The word of God stood in their way. No revealed truth was too sacred to be "twist(ed)", demeaned and bent to their unholiness. To achieve their purposes all representations had to be distorted and then cycled back into circulation. No measure was off-limits to them; not even murder and violence. Fear was the ruling principle. The manipulators feared loss of power; the manipulated feared injustice and death.

#6. "Fake everything: "Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, her priests instruct for a price and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord saying, 'Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us'", 3:11. Every word from their mouths (their media) was calculated to deceive, mislead and influence the universe of representations. The point was to control public discourse and shape its meaning. Government and religion were unitized by corruption. Personal social survival and acquisition were the things that mattered. The soul of the nation was dead!

#7. The supernatural outcome: "Therefore, on account of you Zion will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest", 3:12. History will always contract back upon the will, the word and the power of God.

Historical conditions do not have the last word; they are not determinant. Believers have the great blessing of understanding the actual nature of and state of reality. Intuition is unreliable.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 11: THE MAGNITUDE PROBLEM, Micah 1-3.

#1. The magnitude problem has to do with certain conditions in which one is determined to behave as if the word of God just does not matter.

#2. Each of the conditions enumerated will possess a number of magnitudes tending toward increasing disregard of revealed truth.

#3. Example: Minimal personal grasp of the word of God. The "rebellion" (1:5) marked by the Lord and condemned by Him began with a minimal appreciation of the importance of revelation and its meanings for temporal existence. The magnitude problem appears among the Israelites at the Red Sea, Exodus 13, 14. Although Israel had heard the word of God and had seen His power, it often just did not matter.

#4. Example: The undisciplined flesh, 2:1, 2. The impulse of "iniquity" was generated by their undisciplined fleshly desires. And so, the revealed truth just did not matter.

#5. Example: Temptation. Personal temptations can grow to such a magnitude that nothing constrains them. Temptation's drive toward satiation rules out all other concerns. The Bible and its warnings just do not matter. The weak point may not be ignorance of scripture teaching; it can be the magnitude problem.

#6. Example: Fear and desperation. Personal circumstances and those of the ones we care about often change dramatically and without prelude. The magnitudes of fear, of great loss or even death can simply dictate that, at that point and given the situation, what the Bible teaches just does not matter.

#7. Example: Anger. There are multiple warnings about the power of anger in scripture, Matthew 5:22; Ephesians 4:26. It is no wonder. There are magnitudes of anger that override and overrule anything that the Bible projects against it.

#8. Example: The abstract and the specific. Any believer can say that the "revealed truth matters greatly" (in the abstract) but then fail to apply it in the specific. This implies that the abstract contention qualifies as faith. However, that will not do. If the word of God does not matter in specific circumstances, then it does not really matter at all.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 12: THE WONDER OF MATERIALIZATION, 4:1.

#1. One of the most amazing verses in the Bible: "And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it", 4:1.

#2. Human beings, boxed in by inherent limitations, always get it wrong. The most acceptable idea (to men) is that the realm of materialization is the real source of causation and especially of human wellbeing.

#3. That thought promotes the most vigorous and dangerous pursuit of material conditions. Such a temporal purpose is supremely misguided.

#4. Micah corrects the misunderstanding. It is the spiritual realm of the first dimension of reality (God) that is casual and materialization (to become actual fact) is itself caused; it is an effect. "And it will come about in the last days..." for that to be the case, something or someone must make it so.

#5. The Almighty is the force behind time and the whole realm of materialization. A single extraordinary supernatural mind stands causal to the realm of materialization. Such a presence confronts no actual obstacles to His will.

#6. Here was why "...the mountain of the house of the Lord"..., was "established as the chief of the mountains". This preeminent event in time (second dimension) and all that was part of it was driven by unseen reality.

#7. The reality of God, the will of God, the word of God, the power of God, all stand like a mighty mountain in the middle of time and human circumstance; "It will be raised above the hills".

#8. Supernatural reality of the first dimension is manifest in time, life and history. The wonder of materialization is that it is a function of God and not of time.

#9. "And", therefore, those recognizing this wonder, are proximate to a supernatural ideal; "the peoples will stream to it".

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 13: THE ECLIPSE OF THE SECOND DIMENSION, 4:2-5.

#1. Revealed truth was always intended by the Lord and provided by Him to eclipse dependence upon human rational thought and personal experience. Mankind, generally and historically has rejected this purposed use and reading of scripture.

#2. However, there are those in every age who always find a way out of the overbearing influence of the second dimension (time/materiality), by means of serious persistent contemplation of the word of God. How?

#3. From v.2: Revelation eclipses human rationalism. "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...that He may teach us about His ways". Such a statement implies sufficient exposure to the word of God to recognize an eternal mind transcending that of

the human. Beyond a mere acknowledgment of the advanced ideas taught in scripture, people like that determine to build a new kind of life on the revealed word. "...And that we may walk in His paths". Thought, speech and behavior assumed a post-temporal foundation. This is a way of perceiving called faith. The human mind is eclipsed by revealed truth. According to those content to remain chained to the thought dynamics of the second dimension, true faith was too atypical to be embraced.

#4. From v.3: Deference to the eternal dimension of reality (first dimension). The point is that yielding the human mind to the word of God is precedent to a deference toward and an acquiescence to the wisdom of God manifested in revelation. It makes no sense to proclaim faith in the word of God if one is reluctant, for whatever reason, to force it into temporal conditions. Forcing revealed truth into situation and circumstance eclipses human lived experience!

If faith does not eclipse personal experience, it is no faith at all! "And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations". No peace in the Middle East nor anywhere else is possible without the eclipse of human will and its agendas. There is only one influence that inclines mankind to "hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks".

#5. From v.4: Correspondence to revealed authority. Temporal and fleshly interests will remain, but they are to be disturbed and eclipsed by the authority of the Almighty. Human personal agendas are correctable; "For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken".

#6. From v.5: Unshakable personal resolution. In spite of whatever magnitudes of social and culture pressures, our personal fears must be eclipsed. The language was framed by Micah; "As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever".

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 14: THE X FACTOR, 4:6-13.

#1. All three stipulated dimensions of reality exist in a state of unbreakable unity (first, God; second, time/materiality; third, index/link between them). For those believers who are compelled to learn as much as possible about biblical truth, that fact is of determining importance.

#2. It means that the idea of reality includes not just what is, nor "the way things are", but also must include what will be, and that materialized by the will, word and power of God.

#3. In other words, reality is not purely a product of the second dimension (time)!

#4. "In that day" (4:6) was as much a part of reality as the then material and political circumstances. Against all probabilities, the Lord was to "...assemble the lame and gather the outcasts, even those I have afflicted...". Out of them the Lord was to make "a strong nation"; ruled by the Lord and their dominion restored, 4:7, 8.

#5. Human one-dimensional leadership had failed, 4:9. Worldly leadership and one-dimensional reasoning share a common feature. Both of them have no access to, nor do they have respect for the X factor.

#6. The peoples of Judah and Israel, according to the will of God, were to "go to Babylon", 4:10. But reality did not stop there, by any means. "...There you will be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies".

#7. The people of God had enemies. Those enemies, thinking that they had a firm grasp on "reality", exulted in Israel's diminishment; they "gloat(ed)", 4:11. However, they took no thought of the X factor.

#8. *The X factor: "But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, and they do not understand His purpose..."*, 4:12. This means that no one can come to faultless understanding of reality predicated on "the way things are" nor upon "what is"!

#9. Unlimited and unconditional trust in the Lord is our hold on reality. Fear generated by predictive experience must be displaced by the X factor. We may not know the immediate temporal outcomes. But we do know something about the character of the Almighty! We should concede our minds, our fears, our lives and well-being to the Lord of the first dimension; to the "thoughts" and "purpose" of supernatural wisdom.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 15: THE RIVER OF POWER, 5:1-9.

#1. The three dimensions of reality and their unity may be depicted as a river of supernatural power flowing from its headwaters in the first dimension (God) --> through the connecting power of the third dimension (index/linkage) --> and into the second dimension of reality (time/history/material).

#2. The Almighty told Micah that time and things in time are teleological (driven by purpose) toward a tremendous finality! The second dimension of reality will become a flood plain of supernatural power! Time cannot contain it and materiality will not constrain it. Nothing stops it!

#3. Attention is drawn to an obscure place on the earth. "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity", 5:2.

#4. An irresistible ruler was coming and He would be born by flesh into time (5:3). This "One" would appear as a man in time; He would eat, drink, work and tire, as do all men, and He will know pain. But He is more than just a man.

#5. "And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. Jesus, Messiah will come into time being borne by the river of power!

#6. That eventuality was fixed "from the long ago, from the days of eternity". That means that this river of power confronts no significant challenge nor obstruction from man nor matter.

#7. Many generations have disregarded the supernatural river of power and that to their regret. In our personal trials, troubles, frequent pain and burdensome experience, let us not be shortsighted.

#8. The "Shepherd" has appeared in time, fulfilled His purpose and now, Himself, stands astride the fulsome river of supernatural power. All of our trials and troubles have already been immersed in that river of power.

#9. A final day of time is coming! And the supernatural river of power will swallow it whole! Until then our business is to fight our spiritual battles!

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.
PART 16: THE RIVER OF POWER, 5:1-9.

#1. "This One will be our peace...", 5:5. At the interest of every dimension of reality there is a stipulated personality called the "One". In Him is vested the animating force of the river of power.

#2. Material temporal power is exposed as too feeble to interrupt the dominion of the "One" over second dimension (material) circumstances; "...and He will deliver us from the Assyrian when he attacks our land and when he tramples our territory", 5:6.

#3. The example of an Assyrian attack makes the point that material conditions are not autonomous. Believing that such conditions are autonomous is an incorrect intuited finding about reality. Inferred here is the fact that the presence of the "One" unseats the authority of human intuition and human experience.

#4. "Peace" is a leveraging force with, at least, two functions. (1) It limits the damaging reach and effect of material conditions of whatever kind and (2) "peace" shelters those who trust in it. Micah testifies that temporal material circumstances and conditions are at

the low end of a gradient of power flowing from God (first dimension) and through the indexing dimension (third dimension), then into historical conditions (second dimension).

#5. The "One" has the power to reconstitute the nature of those who follow Him in faith. "Then the remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples like dew from the Lord, like showers on vegetation which do not wait for man or delay for the sons of men", 5:7.

#6. Such people are not driven by selfish ends nor by temporal circumstances. To the contrary, that kind of people emerges from a revealed understanding of reality and their subordination to it. Believers like that are a refreshing benevolence to all circumstances, conditions, relations and states of being.

#7. When called upon to stand their ground in faith, their demeanor stiffens to the task. "...Like a lion among the beasts"..."a young lion among flocks"..."there is none to rescue", 5:8. Those of true belief, which includes a proper, truthful and revealed understanding of reality, do not conform to the demanding rhythms of society, culture or the natural.

#8. Biblical faith is not accurately represented by ascription to doctrine only. Biblical faith is an acquiescence to a supernatural manifested understanding of reality. It is an act of faith to enfold all of our days, situations, circumstances, reasoning and behavior into the substance of the three dimensions of reality.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 17: THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and DANGEROUS INCOMPATIBILITIES, 5:10-15.

#1. The prophet confirms that the three revealed dimensions of reality pose the case for incompatibilities. Generalization: Unless one has a grasp on the revealed structure of reality as taught in the scripture, then it is not always possible to recognize thought, speech and behavior that is incompatible with that reality.

#2. The unaddressed problem: Believers cannot map inherited, worldly, uncorrected perspectives of reality on to scripture and expect to understand it. This problem only gets worse! If a false understanding of reality remains uncorrected, biblical teaching will never be accepted --because the textual meaning is edited by the controlling assumptions of an erroneous theory of reality. An understanding of reality derived from rationalism has trouble grasping the biblical truth concerning the power of God. Consequently, the power of God is categorized as a to-be-forgotten element of the biblical past.

#3. The problem of interpretation: Interpretation of the Bible must take place within some previously existing comprehension of reality. But that perspective of reality may

very well not be Micah's perspective. Interpretation of the Bible was always done within rationalist (derived strictly by the human mind and personal experience) assumptions regarding reality.

#4. Generalization from scripture to material life only makes sense within the framework of the three revealed dimensions of reality.

#5. The oversight: When the Bible is not read in order to gain a revealed comprehension of reality, then that is a voluminous oversight. This mistake allows the mind to take too much for granted! A rationalistic perspective on reality does not tend to Micah's presentation of the three dimensions.

#6. The problem of terms: "One must be pragmatic, practical, realistic"; is language fully indebted to rationalist reality. "Don't go off the deep end", refers to a rationalistic and naturalistic grasp of reality.

#7. The practice of generalization from scripture immediately contradicts the findings of rationalism. This fact has been amply proven.

#8. A false reality functions to generate sustainable behavioral incompatibilities.

#9 Any false understanding of reality will generate any number of incompatibilities with the biblical revealed truth.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 18: THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and DANGEROUS INCOMPATIBILITIES, 5:10-15.

#1. False conceptions of reality function to produce dangerous behavioral incompatibilities with Micah's revealed truth.

#2. Incompatible: The belief that all significant levels of security and protection are to be found in material advantages. "It will be in that day, declares the Lord, 'That I will cut off your horses from among you and destroy your chariots'", 5:10. True security is the function of first dimension spiritual reality. The "Lord" may act to strip away material advantages. Trust in material conditions above God is misguided and dangerous. The universe is not a closed system.

#3. Incompatible: Confidence in human ingenuity exemplified in "fortifications" (5:11). Forms of humanism are always rooted in humanized constructions of reality. People tend to learn to rely on growth through human experience. This is a form of progressivism. Dangerous. The Lord can "tear" them "down".

#4. Incompatible: Turning to the occult. Any kind of turn toward the occult is the acknowledgment of the disregard of revealed truth concerning reality. "I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have fortune tellers no more", 5:12. Fantasy becomes indistinguishable from reality. Superstition supersedes revelation.

#5. Incompatible: Idolatry. The Bible explains idolatry as irrationality. Belief in consciously manufactured deity is to set a pretext for human autonomous action. Resentful of the Lord's authority over time, man and materiality, such people "...bow(ed) down to the work of your own hands", 5:13.

#6. Incompatible: A masking ritualism. "I will root out your Asherim...", 5:14. Many simple-minded individuals find a source of energy and a kind of purpose from indulging in secreted places ("Asherim") where choreographed rituals are practiced. Such ritualism may have the attraction of masking consideration any greater truth. A kind of mindlessness, perhaps.

#7. Incompatible: Sheer disobedience. "And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations which have not obeyed", 5:15. False realities cleared the way for such incompatibilities with the Word of God.

#8. Some contemporary believers linger under the influence of uncorrected views of reality. That applies to scholars as well as general readers of the Bible. Uncorrected reality influences how Scripture is read, understood and used.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 19: THE SECOND DIMENSION INCLINE, 6:1-5.

#1. An inherent problem, a kind of leaning, loiters within the second dimension of reality (temporal/material). This leaning or incline, ever present, is toward the elevation of trust in what is seen and a vigorous suppression of the unseen.

#2. In the Bible, from first to last, this second dimension incline makes its presence known. Everyone has to deal with its influence; there are no exemptions, then or now. One feature of this inherent problem is that it is rarely understood to be a problem!

#3. Micah puts an example of the second dimension incline. "My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you might know the righteous acts of the Lord", 6:5. (Originally Numbers 22-24).

#4. Balaam was surely guilty of the second dimension incline. It was a kind of *de facto* atheism. The prophet of God still knew of the Lord's reality, presence and authority, yet Balaam suppressed faith and pursued worldly reward.

#5. "My people, remember now...", poses the solution to such moments. An active vital memory is the solution. Remembrance of revealed truth and the will to plug it into the situation is the only answer to this destructive leaning.

#6. The trained skillful, ever present memory contains the distilled truth of the three revealed dimensions of reality. Believers use it to call to mind "...the righteous acts of the Lord". We must prepare to call to mind the reality behind the historical phenomenon of the Exodus. "Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery...", 6:4.

#7. Unless we resist the second dimension incline with revealed truth, we will repeatedly fall prey to it. The Almighty may lose patience and then comes the divine "indictment of the Lord...", 6:2.

#8. At that point we will have to plead our case (6:1) to "the mountains", to "the hills", for no one else is listening.

#9. A redeeming memory of the question the Lord asked Israel may prompt a resistance to the flesh; "My people, what have I done to you, and how have I wearied you? Answer me", 6:3.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 20: REVELATION VERSUS RATIONALIZATION, 6:6-8.

#1. Given the revealed three dimensions of reality, how is one to live, think, speak and behave? Or what is the foundation of human existence in the second dimension (temporal/material)?

#2. The most pressing problem facing mankind is not survival, global warming, world peace, the search for "values" or environmentalism. The most important issue to mankind is how to relate to God (first dimension)!

#3. Two possibilities are presented. One of those is rationalism and its verb form to rationalize (formed by human reason alone). "With what shall I come to the Lord and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?", 6:6.

#4. Micah formulates a rhetorical question. Is the Lord seeking rationalized religion, is that the point of life? Rationalized religion turns to ritualization, inevitably. Of what value then is religious formalism? Is there ever enough ritual?, 6:7. The answer is no.

#5. Rationalized religion is indistinguishable from pagan tendencies. "Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

#6. Rationalism is the problem. It always masks the understanding of revealed truth , which has no root origin in human reason.

#7. Micah leaves a decided impression that the people of Israel had long turned to rationalized religion and as consequence, turned to a rationalized faith; certainly confirmed in Jesus' day.

#8. The churches, through the ages, never abandoned rationalism as the only valid starting point for the understanding of everything, anything. So rationalism is mapped on to the Bible ("what else is there" argument). Rationalized religion remits no sin, cannot garner the approval of the Almighty and effectively screens the mind from revealed truth.

#9. Rationalized religion cannot bring us any nearer to the Lord.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 21: THE GRAMMAR OF DISCONTINUITY, 6:1-8.

#1. Definitions: The term grammar refers to a set of rules governing a certain sequence of other things. Discontinuity expresses a state of being wherein gaps in the continuity of a structure appear.

#2. The very presence of revelation from the Lord (first dimension) serves as a supernatural discontinuity from human reason. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?", 6:8.

#3. Rationalism (full trust in human reason and experience) is dependent upon an invented law of the continuity of human reason. Rationalism is to be the starting point for all thought, speech and behavior. However, the word of God constitutes a full break from rationalism. Revelation has no obligation to rationalism. "He has told you..." signifies a grammar of discontinuity from unaided human thought.

#4. This means that when the word of God is brought into any circumstance or situation, then all rationalistic thought (as defined) ceases and reasoning founded upon revealed absolutes takes over. And that is the grammar of discontinuity.

#5. Such representational conditions inherently change the structure of circumstances and conditions. Faith, understood as human reasoning and language dependent upon revelation, is decidedly discontinuous from human reason. Every example of faith in scripture proves the case (Genesis 3).

#6. Everyone is a rationalist unless he/she turns to revealed truth and pushes those ideas into circumstance, regardless of perceived risks. The grammar of discontinuity

was rarely observed, even by many, if not most, of those persons mentioned in the Bible.

#7. The prevalent practice through time is to apply human rational capacity to all and every circumstance; and inclusive in that is to read the Bible through the mist of rationalized language.

#8. Obedience to the grammar of discontinuity is the specific test of one's faith. Typical worldly response is to label such behavior as irrational, too risky.

#9. The contemporary churches have an article of faith; there is more faith in rationalized behavior than trust in revealed truth. But there is no way "...to walk humbly with your God" and disobey the practice of the grammar of discontinuity!

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 22: SUPERNATURAL EVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR VERSUS DISCREDITING NONNATURAL REALITY, WISDOM and CAUSATION, 6:9-16.

#1. The people chosen by God were to be the living examples and practitioners of revealed symbolism. Their very existence was to point to, refer to, the invisible causation of the first dimension (God). This tells us that their thought, speech and behavior were to be evocative (evoke, to induce, to stimulate).

#2. "The voice of the Lord will call to the city--and it is sound wisdom to fear Your name; 'Hear, O tribe, who has appointed its time?'" , 6:9.

#3. The evocative life is the function of a mind, conscious of the contradiction between human wisdom (flesh) and the word of God. "The voice of the Lord..." is the commanding factor in just such evocative behavior. Revelation is appraised as too important to ignore; it is "sound wisdom" to them.

#4. Those who choose the way of life we call the evocative hold a profound fear of God ("...Your name..."). The people of Micah's day had lost the taste for evocation; they were part of the world.

#5. Belief of a peculiar magnitude is not shaped by nor controlled by a discordant culture and society.

#6. Fraud and deception were orchestrated features among the people, 6:10. "...wicked scales" and "deceptive weights", marked the appetite for and tolerance of dishonest gain, 6:11. From the rich on down, depravity, deception and violence leveraged the vulnerable, 6:12.

#7. Micah indicts Israel and Judah of having assiduously discredited everything non-natural. Growing disparagement of non-natural reality, revealed non-natural wisdom and non-natural causation had done its work. Spiritual neglect had killed their souls.

#8. The Almighty reacted with vengeance. He can drain the life from the second dimension (time/materiality), 6:13. Irreversible futility was to submerge all human efforts at basic survival, 6:14, 15. Final "destruction" was the reward for the wrong rules, 6:16.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 23: THE SECOND DIMENSION SETTING and THE REALITY OF GOD, 7:1-6.

#1. Micah described a second dimension (time/material) setting. This book consistently teaches that the material order of things is not a context, a controlling framework, but rather a setting in which events are experienced.

#2. This recognition of the distinction between context and setting is most important, because a rationalist reading of scripture claims that the present historical "context" is different from all other past "contexts". It is thought that such "contexts" site the meaning of scripture within their limits. Context determines meaning--The perception is wrong. The Bible teaches that, despite appearances, time and materiality constitute a setting, in which the invariant word of God always relates to all/every setting in the same way. In other words the Bible is the real context and events are nothing more than setting. Revealed truth puts meaning within every setting; which meaning remains unabridged.

#3. Generalization: Believers must treat all second dimension conditions, of whatever kind, as a setting in which revealed truth and the power of God rule.

#4. The setting: Systemic corruption. (a) Fulsome dismay. "Woe is me"!, 7:1. No resources left. (b) Disheartening. No redeeming people were left. They were all dead or expunged. Only the scum remained. "...Each of them hunts the other with a net", 7:2. (c) A pyramid of evil. The princes were experts at evil; men of consequence were fleshly; "...So they weave it together". It was a consortium of malevolence, 7:3. "The best of them..." were treacherous, 7:4. (d) Discretion was a necessary precaution. "Do not trust in a neighbor...have confidence in a friend...from (a wife) guard your lips", 7:5. (e) Disintegration of the family. "...a man's enemies are the men of his own household", 7:6.

#5. Material circumstances may deteriorate, society might degenerate--but there is something else...

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 24: THE SECOND DIMENSION SETTING and THE REALITY OF GOD, 7:7-13.

#1. This world witnesses to good times and bad times, to victory and defeat. There are times of great blessings and times of agonizing discipline. How then shall we think about these things? What are we to say about such conditions?

#2. "But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me", 7:7.

#3. Micah understood that there was no natural ebb and flow to events. Human circumstances were governed by the will of God and the approval of God.

#4. The Almighty is the God of the second dimension. Historical conditions are directly related to God and not to human genius. Human personal behavior is the trigger point. Micah implicitly trusts in the character of God; "My God will hear me". He was determined to stick with God. All outcomes are His. The prophet refuses to sink into despair.

#5. Micah calls us to revealed facts. "I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, and I will see His righteousness", 7:9.

#6. We must be willing to cling to His Excellency in complete faith and trust. The hard times are not autonomous; they are effects rather than causal.

#7. Inevitably, some will question the efficacy of such determined belief. "Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, 'Where is the Lord your God?...' ", 7:10. Doubts may abound when things are bad. Can we really trust God? Is faith worth the sacrifice? How long must we endure? Is God really there and does He care? The human inclination is to bow to naturalism and the supposed contextual power of time.

#8. Micah will have none of it! Everything depends upon the reality of God, His words and His power. Micah will endure what he must and the man of faith will hold that line! The prophet held no rationalized faith.

From the Book of Micah. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF REALITY and THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PART 25: THE GOD OF THE FIRST DIMENSION and THE DAY OF NEW THINGS, 7:14-20.

#1. The day of new things, redemption, freedom, release, restoration and miracles are functions of God (first dimension). "Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, the flock of your possession which dwells by itself in the woodland, in the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old", 7:14.

#2. The Shepherd has direct and exact relations to time, materiality and the peoples within the second dimension. This is an arrangement between God and the world of things and men that causes circumstances to materialize.

#3. Micah affirms that this relation of redemption has biblical precedents: "As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles", 7:15.

#4. This ancient event of the Exodus has no direct relation to contemporary times. However, it does have direct relation to the reasoning of the believer! Perhaps the most important truth that it is meant to convey has to do with the power of God!

#5. The dawning of the day of new things has no natural nor logical explanation. There is only one singular explanation; that being the power of God. Probative: The power of God is proof of the nature of the first dimension. The power of God is the only proof that will cause unbelievers to "...put their hand on their mouth" (make them mute) and cause their "ears" to be "deaf", 7:16.

#6. The Lord shuts their mouths finally. And all too late they will find the revealed truth about reality and will present themselves to God "afraid", in "trembling" and "dread", 7:17.

#7. The miracle of miracles is the renewing power of God. "Who is a God like you"...?, 7:18-20. Who "pardons iniquity", "passes over rebellion", does not "retain anger", "delights in unchanging love", has "compassion", "treads our iniquities under foot", "cast(s)...all their sins into...the sea".

#8. Believers who trust in the revealed understanding of reality, the three dimensions and everyone else are part of an ancient, immutable, eternal, commanding, inescapable structure and "from the days of old".

From the Book of Micah. THE WONDER OF MATERIALIZATION.

#1. "And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it", 4:1.

#2. Someone with absolute power would cause the materialization of those conditions, in accord with eternal will.

#3. Materialization of things in time is the province of and the function of God alone (the first dimension), Genesis 1; Romans 4:17. But this is disputed by human lived experience and human wisdom.

#4. Examples abound in scripture of individuals who profoundly doubted the wonder of materialization. Doubting the wonder of materialization is as old as mankind, Genesis 3.

#5. This divine capacity is immediately related to trust in God. There is a kind of faith that rejects the wonder of materialization. Rationalist faith concurs with the universe of unbelief, in that such things do not happen. A faith minus trust in the wonder of materialization, affects, at the very least, how one reads the Bible, how one trusts God, how one behaves, how one reasons and how one prays.

#6. The wonder of materialization is very much anti-nature. And that is the precise reason why it is ruled out of consideration in personal circumstances despite the redundant teaching of the Bible as to its truth!

#7. Scripture is insistent (James 1:1-8) that those who pray are to hold unalterably to the truth about the wonder of materialization; if we expect to be blessed by it.

#8. Think of it!: Praying to the Lord about material conditions of ourselves and those of others while standing upon the foundation of the wonder of materialization. Without this factor, whatever faith one has is defective.

#9. Under the aegis of the wonder of materialization, terms like "incurable", "hopeless", "futile", "irredeemable", "irreversible" are meaningless.