

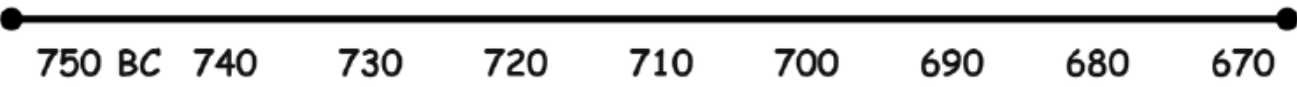


Micah



Historical Reminder

OLD TESTAMENT KINGS AND PROPHETS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



ISRAEL

Zechariah----- Pekah ----- Hoshea----- --> Northern 10 tribes go into Syrian Captivity 722
 Shallum
 Menahem



JUDAH





Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 1

- Review - *Micah 2:12,13 - A Prediction of Future Regathering and Leadership*
 - Israel will be reassembled and will enter the gate after the King.
- Overview of Chapter 3
 - J. Vernon McGee
 - Verses 1-4: Sins of princes: Injustice - they love evil and hate good.
 - Verses 5-7: Sins of prophets: They declare peace - cause people to err.
 - Verse 8: Micah is declaring God's word by the power of the Spirit.
 - Verses 9-11: Sins of leaders of Jerusalem - Injustice of rulers and love of money of prophets.
 - Verse 12: Frightful judgment coming to Jerusalem.
 - Darby
 - 'The prophet again denounces the heads and princes of Jacob. They should cry unto Jehovah. But He would not hear them. No prophet should enlighten them with the light of His word. The seers should be confounded; there should be no answer from God.'



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- ***Micah 3:1 And I said:***
“Hear now, O heads of Jacob,
And you rulers of the house of Israel:
Is it not for you to know justice?
 - “Hear now,a statement like that used by other prophets.
 - *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos.*
 - Should we look at *Jacob* and *Israel* as the same or separate?
 - Constable – ‘Again, Jacob and Israel are synonyms for all 12 tribes (cf. 1:5; et al.)’ – somewhat rhetorical.
 - But remember, Jacob can also be used to describe the Southern Kingdom when Israel was divided.
 - Rulers could be magistrates or judges and what is their responsibility?
 - » *Rom 2:1 - Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.*



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- **Micah 3:2,3 - You who hate good and love evil;
Who strip the skin from My people,
And the flesh from their bones;
Who also eat the flesh of My people,
Flay their skin from them,
Break their bones,
And chop *them* in pieces
Like *meat* for the pot,
Like *flesh* in the caldron.”**
 - This is an incredibly strong incrimination isn't it.
 - *hate good and love evil;*
 - Quite a contrast to the call of the prophet Amos (who prophesized immediately before Micah), or the wisdom of Solomon.
 - » *Amos 5:15 - Hate evil, love good;*
 - » *Prov 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*



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- And the Lord Jesus Christ himself said much about hatred.
 - » *John 7:7 - "The world cannot hate you, but it **hates Me** because I testify of it that its works are evil.*
 - » *John 15:23,24 - **He who hates Me hates My Father also.** "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also **hated both Me and My Father.**"*
- What should we make of *Who strip the skin from My people (them), and the flesh from their bones; who also eat the flesh of My people, flay their skin from them, break their bones, and chop them in pieces like meat for the pot, like flesh in the caldron.*"
 - Is this really cannibalism or simply symbolic?
 - Should we interpret the Psalmist literally?
 - » *Psalm 14:4 - Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, **who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on the LORD?***
 - Constable – ‘The figure is of a hunter, and the implication is that the rulers regarded and treated the ordinary citizens as mere animals rather than as human beings.’
 - Cambridge Bible – ‘We may infer that cannibalism was not unknown to



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the Israelites by hearsay or tradition, but not necessarily that it was practised by the ancestors of the Israelites, much less by the Israelites themselves. The meaning of the figure plainly is that the peasantry had lost their old independence and fallen into a condition like that of the peasants of the Turkish empire.

J-F-B – ‘Compare Eze 24:3, etc., containing, as to the coming punishment, the same figure as is here used of the sin: implying that the sin and punishment exactly.’

» *Eze 24:3 - “And utter a parable to the rebellious house, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Put on a pot, set it on, me and pour water into it.*

- ***Micah 3:4 – Then they will cry to the LORD,
But He will not hear them;
He will even hide His face from them at that time,
Because they have been evil in their deeds.***

- What kind of *cry* will this be?
 - Will it always be heard?



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» *Psalm 27:7,8 - Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me and answer me. When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

– Does not God hear all prayers and is always forgiving?

• Isn't there a difference between a nation and an individual?

» *Psalm 32:5 - I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah,*

» *2 Cor 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

• But the promise to Israel (Judah) remains.

» *Jer 50:20 - In those days and in that time," says the LORD, "The iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; And the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found; For I will pardon those whom I preserve.*

• J-F-B – 'Their prayer was rejected, because it was the mere cry of nature for deliverance from pain, not that of repentance for deliverance from sin.'

• There is consequence for nations if *they hate good and love evil.*

» *Deut 31:16-17 - And the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake*



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Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. “Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, ‘Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?’

– And applicable today too!

»Rom 2:8,9 - *but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

- ***Micah 3:5 - Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets***

Who make my people stray;

Who chant “Peace”

While they chew with their teeth,

But who prepare war against him

Who puts nothing into their mouths:

– Are they blaming others?

- Constable – ‘The Lord also had a message concerning the false prophets



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who were misleading His people. The false prophets gave benedictions to those who paid them, but people who did not give them anything received maledictions of doom and gloom. "It was an ancient and respectable practice for a prophet to accept payment for services rendered to his clients.'

– *Who chant “Peace” While they chew with their teeth a— metaphor?*

» *Jer 6:13,14 - “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.*

• Is this happening today?

– *What about chewing, preparing for war and putting nothing in their mouths?*

» *Rom 16:18 - For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

• *Micah 3:6 - “Therefore you shall have night without*



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vision,

***And you shall have darkness without divination;
The sun shall go down on the prophets,
And the day shall be dark for them.***

–Micah predicts the consequences of their sinful ways.

–What kind of darkness is this?

» *Isaiah 8:22 - Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.*

» *1 John 1:5 - This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

- ***Micah 3:7 - So the seers shall be ashamed,
And the diviners abashed;
Indeed, they shall all cover their lips;
For there is no answer from God.***

–Who are these *seers and/or diviners (mystics)*?

- Constable – ‘The title "seer" is an old one describing a prophet



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(1 Sam. 9:9), but "diviners" sought knowledge of the future through illegitimate means and were outlawed in Israel (cf. Deut. 18:10). Thus these two titles were derogatory terms for the false prophets.'

- » *1 Sam 9:9 - (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer"; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.)*
- » *Deut 18:10 - "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,*

–Covering the upper lip was a sign of shame.'

- » *Lev 13:45\ - "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'*
- » *Eze 24:22 - And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your lips nor eat man's bread of sorrow.*

–For there is no answer from God

- » *Amos 8:11 - "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.*



Micah 3:8 WEB

But as for me, I am full of power by the Spirit of Yahweh, And of judgment, and of might, To declare to Jacob his disobedience, And to Israel his sin.