



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

- Review - *Micah 3:1-12 - Part 1, verses 1-7.*
 - *The rulers of Israel hated good and loved evil – verse 2*
 - *Then they will cry to the LORD, But He will not hear them; - verse 4*
 - *Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets – verse 5.*
 - *The sun shall go down on the prophets, And the day shall be dark for them – verse 6.*
- ***Micah 3:8 - But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD,
And of justice and might,
To declare to Jacob his transgression
And to Israel his sin.***
 - *Micah declares that he is full of power by the Spirit of the LORD.*
 - How can we explain this role of the Spirit at this time?



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

- Benson – ‘Here Micah speaks of himself by way of contrast to the false prophets and declares that he was filled with a divine prophetic influence, and not with dainties, wine, and strong drink, like those false pretenders to prophecy; *and of judgment* — To discern truth from error, right from wrong, and to judge properly of times and seasons, and improve them accordingly. *And of might* — Of courage, constancy, and resolution to speak whatever God commands me, without being deterred from it by the fear of anyone, however great, or in whatever station.’
 - » *Jer 23:16 - Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD.*
 - In contrast to
 - » *Isaiah 58:1 - “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.*
- Meyer – ‘Oh, that every minister and teacher of God’s holy gospel were able to utter Mic 3:8! It may be ours through the Holy Spirit.’
- Should we try to distinguish the *transgression of Jacob* from the *sin of Israel*?
 - *transgression* - *peša* (‘*peh*’-*shah*), specifically here against God.
 - *sin* - *ḥattā’āt* (*khat-taw-aw*’), here again against God.



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

- *Micah 3:9 - Now hear this,
You heads of the house of Jacob
And rulers of the house of Israel,
Who abhor justice
And pervert all equity,*
 - Remember who's speaking here, and with a strong message that takes us back to *verse 1*.
 - » *Mic 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?”*
 - Micah now confronts Israel's leaders with the judgments that will come upon Israel because of their *transgression* and *sin*.
 - » *Isaiah 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
 - » *Jer 5 :28 - They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.*



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

- *Micah 3:10, 11 - Who build up Zion with bloodshed
And Jerusalem with iniquity:*

*Her heads judge for a bribe,
Her priests teach for pay,
And her prophets divine for money.
Yet they lean on the LORD, and say,
“Is not the LORD among us?
No harm can come upon us.”*

- These verses indicate that the rulers who built Jerusalem did so by bloodshed, presumably of innocent people, and existed as false prophets; but then look here how they *lean on the LORD* and His presence – what hypocrisy!

- » *Hab 2:12 - “Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, Who establishes a city by iniquity!*
- » *Deut 16:19 - “You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.*



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

» *Deut 27:25 - Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person. 'And all the people shall say, 'Amen.''*

- This is a principle of the Holy Spirit that extends to conflicts within the body today.

» *1 Cor 6:5 - I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?*

- ***Micah 3:12 – Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple (house) Like the bare hills of the forest.***

– A true prophet speaks about what's to become, and when will this destruction occur?

- Constable quotes Allen – "Micah's words, remembered for their shocking severity a hundred years later, deserve to be taken to heart by each generation of God's people. They challenge every attempt to misuse the service of God for one's own glory and profit. They are a dire



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

warning against the complacency that can take God's love and reject his lordship. They are a passionate plea for consistency between creed and conduct. The Lord is content with nothing less.“

- Of interest is what Jeremiah had to say here.
 - » *Jer 26:18 - “Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts:
“Zion shall be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins,
And the mountain of the temple
Like the bare hills of the forest.”*
- Micah's prophecy was in part fulfilled during Jeremiah's lifetime, ~120 years after Israel (Northern Kingdom) found themselves in Babylon.
 - Judah was overtaken by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia; however, although the Temple was rebuilt during the period of Ezra and Nehemiah, it was again destroyed by the Romans under Titus in 70 AD.
 - God delayed the exile of Judah because of Hezekiah's loyalty, Isaiah's prayers, and Micah's intercession.



Micah

Micah 3:1-12 Condemnation of Israel's Leaders Part 2

- Let's review briefly the history at that time.
 - Sennacherib, king of Assyria, invaded Judah.
 - » *2 Chron 32:1,2 - After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself. And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,*
 - » *2 Kings 18:14 - Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.*
 - » *2Kings 19: 15,16 - Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.*
 - » *2 Kings 29:29,30 - "Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."'*
- In *Micah 4*, the future is bright, and into *Micah 5* the restoration of Zion (Jerusalem) is promised!