***Studying the Southern Kingdom Prophets”—Micah 3, Sin By Their Leaders***

**THERE ARE THREE SECTIONS IN MICAH 3: 1) The Judges and the corruption of the courts in verses 1-4, 2) Prophets market driven in verses 5-8, and 3) Politicians for hire in verses 9-12.**

**1st Section: The Judges and the corruption of the courts--Micah 3:1-4, “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? 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. 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.”**

1. **Since the theme of Micah is injustice and justice, it would be good to review some famous injustices. Review the story of Alfred Dreyfus and how it affected the story of Theodr Hertzl and the Jewish nation.**
	1. **Why was he called, “The Father of Zionism?”**
2. **Review the powers of nations, especially the “three branches of governments” as demonstrated in Isaiah 33:22.**
	1. **See also Isaiah 5:8-23**.
3. **Discuss Micah’s comments to Jacob’s leaders/heads**.
	1. **This is the second place Micah warns them to “hear.” Where are the other passages? Micah 1:2, 3:1-5, and 6:1-7:20.**
		1. **Compare with Isaiah 1:10.**
		2. **See also Romans 2:1-3.**
	2. **Do they hate “good?”**
4. **In verse 3, discuss “eat the flesh of my people**.” .
	1. **Do these leaders understand how evil they are?**
		1. **See Psalm 14:4.**
		2. **See also Proverbs 30:11-14.**
		3. **Contrast this section with Micah 2:12-13’s “shepherd.”**
		4. **Co mpare with Ezekiel 34:1-10 and 34:23-24.**
5. **In verse 4, why does God not hear the cry of the prophets/leaders?**
	1. **See Jeremiah 11:11.**
	2. **Refer to Proverbs 21:13**.
	3. **This last section reminds the reader of Hell. Discuss.**

**2nd Section—Prophets market-driven—Micah 3:5-8, “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: “Therefore you shall have night without vision, and you shall have darkness without divination; the sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be dark for them. So the seers shall be ashamed, and the diviners abashed; indeed they shall all cover their lips; for *there is* no answer from God. 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.”**

1. **What does God say about the conduct of the False Prophets?**
2. **Re-state the gloom evidenced in verse 6.**
	1. **Parallel with Isaiah 8:22.**
	2. **Compare to Amos 5:18.**
	3. **Refer also to Amos 8:9.**
	4. **See the link in Amos 8’s prophesying about the “famine of the Word” in verses 11-12.**
3. **In verse 7, what does “cover their lips” mean?**
	1. **Refer to Leviticus 13:45.**
	2. **Examine Jeremiah 5:13.**
	3. **Link to Ezekiel 13:3.**
	4. **And, note the ominous warning by Jesus Himself in Matthew 18:6-7.**
	5. **Can we also see an “echo” of Judas Iscariot here, as well?**
4. **How do we know, according to verse 8, that Micah is a true prophet of God?**
	1. **Discuss the “spirit of the Lord,” verse 8.**
	2. **See I Corinthians 14:3.**
	3. **Examine Paul’s charge to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.**

**3rd Section—Politicians for hire—Micah 3:9-12—“ Now hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, 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.” Therefore because of you 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.”**

1. **Why does Micah use “Hear this” again in verse 9? Who is he addressing? MICAH NOW SHIFTS FROM THE NORTHERN KINGDOM TO THE SOUTHERN…HIS PEOPLE. Now hear this . . .**
2. **Discover the meaning of Micah’s verse 10, “they build up Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with iniquity**.”
	1. **Compare Jeremiah 22**:**13.**
	2. **Relate this passage to Ezekiel 22**:**27**.
	3. **Examine also Habakkuk 2**:**12.**
3. **In Micah’s grand indictment, he exposes who?**
4. **Was Micah listened to by the Southern Kingdom?**
	1. **Judges were taking bribes.** **See Exodus 23:8.**
		1. **Review Deuteronomy 16:19.**
		2. **Refer to Proverbs 29:4.**
	2. **Were the priests as bad as the judges? Yes**
		1. **Re-visit the story of the prophet-for-hire, Balaam in Numbers 22-31.**
			1. **What is the “Doctrine of Balaam?” Revelation 2:14.**
			2. **What is the “Way of Balaam?” 2 Peter 2:15.**
			3. **What is the “error of Balaam?” Jude 11.**
5. **Compare the corruption of these evil leaders with Jeremiah 7:4, 8-11.**
6. **Micah rails against all the leadership, but does not against King Hezekiah. Why?**
7. **Discuss the prophet’s warning to Jerusalem. In the first chapters of Nehemiah, Jerusalem was in debris. Rome destroyed it completely in 70 A.D. In 734 B.C. the Assyrians carried away all of Israel, in 721 B.C. Shalmaneser of Assyria attacked the northern capital of Samaria and overthrew it, and eight years later was the famous debacle of Sennacherib, attacking Judah. See 2 Kings 18-19.**
8. **Why do we call Micah “The Hidden Hero” of the era? 120 years after Micah’s writing, Jeremiah used Micah’s words to save him from execution.**
	1. **Review Jeremiah 26:4-6.**
	2. **See also Jeremiah 26: 17-19.**
	3. **How was Micah significant in his mission?** “
9. **What is the “take away” message from Micah 3?**
10. **Compare this time period with modern-day America.**

**And, here are the promises…**

**Joel 2:32, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”**

**Jeremiah 32:27, “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?”**

**Luke 1:37, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”**

**Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”**

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