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Micah 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Micah 3.

Topics.

- Leaders who tear the skin off God's people and break their bones in pieces.
- God will not answer the prayers of the leaders, rulers and prophets.
- Leaders and priests build Jerusalem with iniquity and take bribes.
- Because of the leaders and priests Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins.

INTRODUCTION: Micah prophesied in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (about 750–700 B.C.), at about the same time as Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, and Micah denounced the wealthy, who were oppressing the poor, and warned of impending judgment. The Northern Kingdom actually fell during Micah's ministry, in 722, and Judah almost fell in 701 (2 Kings 18–20). The book contains three sections, which alternate between words of warning and messages of hope. Micah told of a day when there would be peace among all nations, who would then be able to beat their swords into plowshares (4:3), and of a royal deliverer who would save Israel from all her enemies. This deliverer would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

MICAH 3:1-3

Leaders who Tear the Skin off God's People and Break their Bones.

- **Micah 3:1-3:** And I (Micah) said: Hear, you heads (leaders) of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?—²you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones, ³who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron.

What a graphic and amazing depiction of the horror of Israel's and Judah's leaders, rulers and prophets. The LORD likens them to a butcher who skins the flesh of an animal, chops up its bones, puts it all in a pot, cooks it over a fire and then eats it. The leaders, rulers and prophets, are likened to this because they showed no justice to the people and they loved sin, and hated righteousness.

MICAH 3:4-7

God will not answer Prayers of the Leaders, Rulers and Prophets.

- **Micah 3:4-7:** Then they will cry to the LORD, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have made their deeds evil. ⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. ⁶Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; ⁷the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

The LORD will not answer the prayers of the leaders, rulers and prophets because they are leading God's people astray. Not only that when they personally have everything, they want they preach a positive message, but when they can't get what they desire they blame it on their followers and cunningly speak deceptive messages that make the people feel guilty and condemned. Their sole purpose of proclaiming such messages is to motivate the congregation to give more, simply to satisfy their excessive and opulent lifestyle. There is a lesson for us all to learn from Micah's message, just because someone is in a position of religious leadership and authority does not always mean they are proclaiming or speaking God's truth. Never surrender your mind to another person, listen, question, and examine anything that does not ring true to your spirit, logic, common sense and intellect, these are all protective gifts God gave to each one of us to protect us from being led astray and spiritual deceived.

MICAH 3:8-10

Leaders and Priests build Jerusalem with Iniquity and take Bribes.

- **Micah 3:8-10:** But as for me (Micah), I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. ⁹Hear this, you heads (leaders) of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight, ¹⁰who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. ¹¹Its heads (the leaders) give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."

Micah is speaking to both Judah and Israel. Micah is a man of justice, meaning he loves fairness to all people one of the great pillars of God's heart is justice. The prophets, religious leaders and rulers don't care for justice or doing what is right and best for the people. The only thing they put value on is money and riches, they even prophecy to gain wealth, fame and favour from the people and in the midst of impending doom they even tell the people the LORD is with them and everything is OK. Micah is saying the religious leaders of his day are building Jerusalem on a false foundation. Sadly, this is true of some churches today, what should be one of the least materialistic faiths, in some circles has become the most materialistic, success, money and possessions are the primary focus in some religious organisations of Christianity as they were in Micah's day.

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MICAH 3:12

Because of the Leaders and Priests Jerusalem will become Ruins.

- **Micah 3:12:** Therefore because of you (the leaders of Judah and Israel) Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

These foreboding words of Micah were fulfilled through Babylon: Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (the two tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods. While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar. They went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His Shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to pagan gods again).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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