

**Continued from November 20, 2022**

**All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James**

## **Micah 3**

### **Rulers and Prophets Condemned**

**1And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; *Is it* not for you to know judgment?**

At the end of Micah 2 in vs 12 and 13 there was a break in the indictments against Israel and Judah, with a promise of return and safety sometime in the future. Micah now goes back to indictments starting with “And I said”, referring back to when he ended his Chapter 2 indictment and gave them comfort for a moment.

Micah at God’s behest now indicts the leadership of the all the tribes, as in “heads of Jacob” and then specifically to Israel norther tribes. The term “princes” was an insult to the leadership of Kings and high-ranking officials both government and religious leaders with a question? The allegation was this: is it not their job description from God to know that sin brings death. Is it not their job description to warn them of the dangers they were engaged in? The specific allegation against them was; how could the

leadership warn the people, the leadership were the ones promoting the evil and engaging in it themselves. So the masses joined in with their leaders.

All that sounds familiar even today in our own country and even in many local and large denominational churches.

**2Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones;**

Micah now answers his rhetorical question with a perfect description of their horrific actions and words.

**3Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.**

Micah repeats the indictment in stronger terms in vs 3. God speaks clearly to the leaders being quoted by Micah, “my people”.

***Psalms 14:4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.***

**4Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.**

At several points in the future from this writing the leaders when trapped and about to face death cried out to the Lord for

protection. God's response was that He would hide his face from them.

***Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.***

***2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.***

***3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

***4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.***

***5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.***

***6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.***

***7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.***

God's Love toward His people is always consistent. He disciplined them as needed. To Israel and to us His Believers, His Body of Christ, the Church.

***Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.***

***Deuteronomy 8:5 So know in your heart that just as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.***

***Proverbs 3:12 for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, as does a father the son in whom he delights.***

***1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.***

***Hebrews 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastises every son He receives."***

The real issue may not be the discipline but how they and we respond to the discipline. How did Israel respond to the discipline from God? Unfortunately, not well. God would always start discipline out with a warning often repeated warning, well in advance of His final disciplinary response. The recipient of the warning had two choices, obey God and walk in His Love or reject God's warning and step closer to the point of discipline. Discipline delivered by God, still in God's Love but painful in various orders of magnitude.

**5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.**

There were many prophets of this day that were hired prophets not of God but simply paid to prophecy unto the people to keep them from rebelling against their rulers. These prophets were not

of the Levitical Tribe as God had prescribed, they were imposters selected in Israel by Jeroboam in defiance of God's Law.

I hate to say it but we have a similar situation today it is called the "news media". The media regulates the stories it will cover to protect leaders in governments or destroy other leaders.

Here in America, we see news sources join in, in what is called "Cancel Culture". In a way it is a self-fulfilling prophecy in that someone takes offense at something someone says, and they set out to destroy or cancel them.

We saw it happen to Michael Flynn early in the Trump administration. Many in the news "prophesied" that Flynn could not last in his job and it was all false allegations. But in the end their "prophecy" of ending his career came true.

Some news medias are an integral paid part of governments around the world especially in Communist nations or dictatorships. In America it is sadly even more diabolical in that the news media shroud themselves in the freedom granted them in the Constitution but surreptitiously pick and choose whose political agenda they want to promote. Who's careers they want to promote or end. Often agendas that lead toward single party rule, socialism and even Communism. They do so under the cover of

“legitimate reporting” when in fact it is akin to false prophets doing it for the money and power.

These false prophets of old would claim a word from the Lord that God did not say. Even to the point of inciting the populace to war against God. Walking not in His council but defying the Truth.

**6Therefore night *shall be* unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.**

It is a scary thought that men would lie about what God said or often; did not say. There are many today that claim to be prophets and there are many that cling to their every word. It concerns me to the point that I don't care to even listen to self-proclaimed prophets. So many of them support their claims by saying 2 years ago I said this was going to happen and look it happened. To many of them are doing it for money, book deals etc.

I could tell you that by the end of the year we will be far worse off financially and declare it a prophesy. And when it comes true just claim the office of Prophet. I am not a prophet, but I can surmise outcomes based on what we see happening. Does make me a prophet.

I am going to quote Josephus and a writing that he did about false prophets. I by no means equate Josephus writings with scripture. He saw many things during his life and recorded them. He is really interesting to read as a first hand account from his position in history.

***“Josephus - An Eyewitness to Christianity***

*Josephus was a historian who lived from 37 A.D. to about 100 A.D. He was a member of the priestly aristocracy of the Jews, and was taken hostage by the Roman Empire in the great Jewish revolt of 66-70 A.D. Josephus spent the rest of his life in or around Rome as an advisor and historian to three emperors, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. For centuries, the works of Josephus were more widely read in Europe than any book other than the Bible. They are invaluable sources of eyewitness testimony to the development of Western civilization, including the foundation and growth of Christianity in the 1st Century.”*

*“Josephus 10.2 2. Now I cannot but think that the greatness of a kingdom, and its change into prosperity, often become the occasion of mischief and of transgression to men; for when Rehoboam saw that his kingdom was so much increased, he went out of the right way unto unrighteous and irreligious practices, and he despised the worship of God, till the people themselves imitated his wicked actions: for so it usually happens, that the manners of subjects are corrupted at the same time with those of their governors, which subjects then lay aside their own sober way of living, as a reproof of their governors' intemperate courses, and follow their wickedness as if it were virtue; for it is not possible to show that men*

*approve of the actions of their kings, unless they do the same actions with them.”*

I believe Josephus describes perfectly how through evil leadership those being led engage in the exact tactics their leaders to do their detriment and the detriment of their nation.

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**7Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for *there is no answer of God.***

One must ask did these false prophets of Micah's day ever become ashamed? Were they ever confounded? It is a question from God because God did not answer them, He did not bring about what they said God would do. Often, they prophesied that good was coming to them and their leaders only to have evil fall at their doors from enemy attacks.

**8But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.**

Micah declares that he has been given power by the Holy Spirit of God, judgement, and might to declare a prophecy for Israel and the 12 tribes of Jacob.



**9**Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.

God through Micah begs them to listen to what is about to befall them if they do not repent.

**10**They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

According to Strong's Concordance the word Zion is:

*“Transliteration: Tsiyyon*

*Phonetic Spelling: (tsee-yone')*

*Definition: a mountain in Jerusalem, also a name for Jerusalem”*

In this verse God calls Jerusalem by two names: Jerusalem and Zion. There is in fact another name that Jerusalem was known by and that is “the city of David”.

**1 Kings 8: 1***Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.*

This is from the commentary of: Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

*“into the city of David] This was the eastern portion of the hill of Zion on which the temple was afterwards built. Solomon considered this too sacred a place for his own dwelling, because thither the ark of the Lord had come ([2 Chronicles 8:11](#)).”*

**11**The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, *Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.*

The use of paid prophets and priests was clearly outside God's Law given to Moses. The first Priests were from the lineage of Aaron and were called the Aaronic Priesthood. God then brought forward the Tribe of Levi to serve under Aaron and his sons to carry out the duty of the priests.

*Numbers 3: **1**These also are the generations of Aaron and Moses in the day that the LORD spake with Moses in mount Sinai. **2**And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. **3**These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests which were anointed, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office. **4**And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.*

#### *Duties of the Levites*

***5**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **6**Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him. **7**And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle. **8**And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle. **9**And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons:*

*they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel. **10**And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

***11**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **12**And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; **13**Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.*

These same fake priests and prophets in vs 11 seemed so caught up in their fake rolls that they really thought God would protect them.

**Vs 11..... yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.**

**12Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.**

God's response was abandonment for a time. The Temple would be destroyed as was the city, no stone left upon another. When Cyrus proffered the Jews to return to rebuild the Temple some Bible Scholars believe that some of the ground inside the newly built walls would be used to grow corn for subsistence IE: "Zion for your sake be plowed as a field".

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