

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 442 – Hear I Pray You Through Zion Plowed (Micah 3:1-12)

1. Who is addressed at the beginning of this chapter?

The heads of Israel: *“And 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” (Micah 3:1)?*

- The prophets did not just address the people, they also taught the leaders (**Jeremiah 13:15-18, Jeremiah 22:2, Hosea 5:1, and Malachi 2:1**).
- As leaders, they should have known what judgment was because such was part of their role as rulers (**Deuteronomy 1:13-17, Deuteronomy 16:18, Deuteronomy 17:9, I Kings 3:28, and Proverbs 29:14**).

2. How were the heads of Israel treating the people under them?

“(2) Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; (3) Who 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 3:2-3).

- The leaders, who were responsible to be judges of the people, hated the good and loved the evil (**Psalms 37:12, Proverbs 17:15, Proverbs 17:26, Proverbs 28:4, Isaiah 5:20, Amos 5:10-14, Malachi 2:17, and Luke 19:11-27**).
- Their violence against the people (**Psalms 37:32, Proverbs 28:15, Isaiah 3:9-15, and Zephaniah 3:1-8**).

3. What did the prophet say about God’s response to their crying unto Him?

He will not hear them: *“Then 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” (Micah 3:4).*

- Though they cry unto the Lord, He will not hear (**Deuteronomy 31:16-18, Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:10-18, Isaiah 59:1-3, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**).
- Understanding why - **Proverbs 1:20-33**

4. Why was God going to cease giving visions and answers unto the prophets at the time we are reading about?

Because they were causing the people to err: *“(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. (6) Therefore 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. (7) Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God” (Micah 3:5-7).*

- The prophets were a cause for the errors of the people (**Isaiah 9:15-16**, **Jeremiah 5:31**, **Jeremiah 14:14**, **Jeremiah 23:26-27**, and **Malachi 2:1-9**).
- If they (the prophets) were not prospering and full, they prepared war against those that were not feeding them (i.e. **Acts 16:16-24**). False prophets then and now, look to prophet from the people (**Isaiah 56:10-12** and **II Peter 2:1-3**).
- Because of their abuse of office, God was going to cease revelation from among these prophets (**I Samuel 28:15**, **Psalms 74:1-9**, and **Amos 8:11**).
- The idea of darkness as this relates to (**Isaiah 8:20-22** and **Isaiah 59:10**).

5. How was Micah different from many of the other prophets at his time?

"But 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 3:8).

- Micah points out that the lack of vision from the prophets to come was not, did not apply to himself. He had the Spirit of God working through him (**II Samuel 23:2**, **Mark 12:36** [cf. **Psalms 110:1**], **Acts 1:16**, **Acts 19:1-7**, **I Corinthians 2:9-13**, **I Corinthians 12:3-11**, **I Corinthians 14:1-3**, **I Corinthians 14:29-32**, **I Corinthians 14:37**, **Hebrews 3:7** [cf. **Psalms 95:7-11**], **Hebrews 10:15** [cf. **Jeremiah 31:31-34**], and **II Peter 1:20-21**).
- To show the people their sins (**Isaiah 58:1**, **Ezekiel 2:1-3:24**, **Matthew 3:1-12**, **II Timothy 4:1-5**, and **Titus 1:13**).

6. What reasons were given by Micah for the punishment that was coming upon Jerusalem?

"(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. (10) They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. (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. (12) Therefore 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" (Micah 3:9-12).

- This chapter is going to end the way it began - addressing the heads of Israel. The very people that were the judges, erringly failed to be fair judges (**Deuteronomy 27:19**, **Isaiah 1:23**, and **Jeremiah 5:28**).
- They built up Jerusalem with blood and iniquity (**Ezekiel 22:25-28** and **Habakkuk 2:9-12**).
- As noted in question #4 (vs. 5), they were only interested in carnal profiting from the people (**Ezekiel 13:19** and **Romans 16:17-18**).
- Zion plowed as a field as a result of these things we have read (**Jeremiah 9:11**) and left for overgrowth (**Isaiah 32:13-14**).
- Jeremiah referenced this prophesy (**Jeremiah 26:18**).