

'CANNIBAL' KINGS, FALSE PROPHETS & CROOKED JUDGES

Sunday, October 18, 2020 — MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope series -- Msg 4 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

REVIEW:

THE PROPHECY OF MICAH -- 3 Prophecy Cycles of Judgment and Mercy

The Setting: The people of Israel are in rebellion and have sinned against God.

- 1st Cycle : Destruction and Regathering** Micah chapters 1 & 2
- The Revelation of coming judgment (1:2-16)
 - The Reasons for coming judgment (2:1-11)
 - The Regathering after judgment (2:12-13) The Good Shepherd
- 2nd Cycle: Doom and Deliverance** Micah chapters 3, 4 & 5
- Doom for leaders, false prophets, Jerusalem (3:1-12)
 - Deliverance through the coming kingdom (4:1-5:1)
 - The Deliverer (His first coming 5:2-3 and His second coming 5:4-15)
- 3rd Cycle : Denunciations and Salvation** Micah chapters 6 & 7
- God's indictments (6:1-5 and 6:9-16)
 - Israel's replies (6:6-8 and 7:1-10)
 - God's Exaltation and Salvation of His people (7:11-20)

NOTICE: The judgment prophecies were intended to lead God's people to repentance.

CHAPTER 3 The DOOM of the Ungodly Declared by the VOICE of God

- 1** *And I said:
Hear, you heads of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel!
Is it not for you to know justice?—*
- 2** *you who hate the good and love the evil,
who tear the skin from off my people
and their flesh from off their bones,*
- 3** *who 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.*
- 4** *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.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

Vs 1 Micah turns toward Jerusalem and condemns the 'Cannibal' kings.

Imagery of cannibalism is graphically used to reveal the grotesque sinfulness of the abuse of power to exploit the poor.

This is about justice! vs 1 (that which is right in the balances)

Vs 2 Notice the wicked position of their hearts.

Vs 4 Judgment is coming in a 1, 2 punch:
- Disaster will hit.
- God will not answer.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 Jesus speaking...

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- 5 *Thus 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.*
- 6 *Therefore 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;*
- 7 *the seers shall be disgraced,
and the diviners put to shame;
they shall all cover their lips,
for there is no answer from God.*
- 8 *But as for me, 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.*
- 9 *Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel,
who detest justice
and make crooked all that is straight,*
- 10 *who build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with iniquity.*
- 11 *Its heads 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."*
- 12 *Therefore because of you
Zion shall be plowed as a field;
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
and the mountain of the house a wooded height.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

Vs. 5 Again, the FALSE PROPHETS are condemned.

- Wicked kings work with wicked prophets
- They tell the people what they want to hear.
- Then bite them like a poisonous snake!
'have something to eat' = bite
- They attack the starving.

Vs. 6-7 God shuts up the false prophets

- removes their perceptive ability
- reveals their fraudulent ways
- no word from God -- silence!

Vs 8 But the prophet Micah is TRUE!

- see 1:1 "the Word of the Lord that came"
- Micah's message has God's power because it comes from God's Spirit!
- sin must be exposed before repentance
- Reformer John Knox (1514-1572)

Vs 9-11 The CROOKED JUDGES/PRIESTS

- instead of loving justice they hate it.
- the holy city is built on murder & money
- vs 11 judges, priests, prophets -- all corrupt!
- false sense of security
- they actually use God in their shtick

Vs 12 Jerusalem is to be utterly destroyed

- God is going to level the city
- it will be turned over like plowed ground
- "the house" not "the house of the Lord"
because the presence of God is gone.
- see Jeremiah 26:16-19 God relents because of King Hezekiah's repentance!

KEY APPLICATIONS:

- 1) From Hollywood to Halloween our modern society seeks to entertain you and entice you with violence, horror and intrigue, whereas God intends to inform you and warn you of the deadly nature of your sin and its horrific consequences if you are not snatched to safety from the jaws of sin, Satan and death.
- 2) New Testament (modern) church leaders can be just as treacherous by distorting God's Word and/or being wickedly motivated by money, sex, power and status.
- 3) In chapter 3 we see that Israel's Prophets, Priests and Kings have all failed. However, Jesus the Messiah, will be the perfect and faithful Prophet (Deut. 18:15), Priest (Rom. 5:10&19) and King (Acts 5:31) that will warn you, intercede for you and lead you!