

A photograph of a city street on a foggy day. The street is lined with brick buildings of various heights and styles. In the foreground, there are traffic lights and street lamps. The fog is thick, obscuring the buildings in the distance. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

# THE MESSAGE OF MICAH

justice and mercy

# The Power of Leadership

Micah 3



SPORTS  
PULSE

XLIII  
SUPER BOWL







**Washington, D.C.**





# Micah 3

“**3** And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?—<sup>2</sup>you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people

stray, who cry 'Peace' when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put

to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. <sup>11</sup> 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.”



# **God's concerns for the nations...**

- God is concerned about cooperation between nations.**
- God is concerned about senseless violence within and between nations.**
- God is concerned about leaders of the nations.**



**Leader's decisions  
promote either good  
or evil. Leadership  
always counts!**

# Structure of the book of Micah

<b>PART 1</b>	Micah 1 Micah 2	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	Oppressive landowners Remnant, flock to be assembled
<b>PART 2</b>	Micah 3 Micah 4 Micah 5	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	<b>Greedy Rulers and Prophets</b>
<b>PART 3</b>	Micah 6 Micah 7	Warning of Judgment: Doom Prediction of Mercy: Hope	

**I. The Meaning of the Text**

**II. The Messages for Us**

# I. The Meaning of the Text

# Structure of the text

A. vv. 1-4 The evil actions and motivations of the heads (rulers) exposed

B. vv. 5-11 evil actions and motivations of the prophets exposed

C. v. 8 The Spirit-filled prophet

D. vv.9-11 Micah's prediction of judgment to the leaders. (He adds priests to the lists)



**Micah points first to their hearts, their character...using highly visceral words love” and “hate.” Micah looks straight into their perverse hearts and puts his finger on the root of Israel’s social ills.**

**Bruce Waltke**

**Those who should have been shepherds tending the flock instead transform themselves into wolves who fatten themselves on them. In fact, they are worse than wolves; they are cannibals. They who were most highly endowed with the dignity of human ness, made themselves less than animals.**

**Bruce Waltke**



**When God judges the heartless magistrates, he will be as heartless as they have been toward the oppressed who had called out to them for help.**

**Bruce Waltke**



**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.**

**i.e. ...the temple mountain will become a worship site covered with trees. (God's word Translation)**

**Quoted in Jeremiah 26:18**

# **I. The Meaning of the Text**

## **II. The Messages for us**

**A. Negative Impact of bad secular leaders  
(vv. 1-4, 9-12)**

**B. Negative Impact of bad religious leaders  
(vv.5-7, 9-12)**

**C. Positive Impact of Spirit-filled leaders (v.8)**

## **II. The Messages For Us**

### **A. Negative Impact of Bad Secular Leaders (vv. 1-4, 9-12)**



-DETECTIVE-  
**SEAN SUITER**  
END OF WATCH | NOVEMBER 10, 2017





# THE WIRE







## **B. Negative Impact of Bad Religious Leaders (vv.5-7, 9-12)**



**As in chapter 2, where an oracle reproaching the prophets (2:6-11) follows an oracle sentencing the land barons to exile (2:1-3), so also in chapter 3 a judgment oracle against the gluttonous prophets (3:5-8) follows one against magistrates (3:1-4). Both reproach oracles against the prophets imply a collusion between themselves and the tyrants based on their common greed.**

**Instead of barking against the avaricious land barons and rapacious magistrates, thereby protecting the covenant, these venal prophets, who should have been the moral watchdogs the theocracy, wagged their tails and joined the cannibals to gratify their own swollen appetites.**

**Bruce Waltke**



# **C. Positive Impact of Spirit-filled Leaders (v.8)**



**<sup>8</sup> 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.**

## **“Moralistic Therapeutic Deism” – Christian Smith**

**Deism-** Belief in a God who is not intimately involved in our lives but merely a distant, unconcerned creative force

**Moralistic** – Salvation by being good, being moral, in contrast to repentance and faith in Jesus finished work.

**Therapeutic-** Seeing the human dilemma in terms of our feelings of pain and suffering rather than seeing our dilemma as law-breakers before a holy God.





“A PRIVATE FAITH THAT  
DOES NOT ACT IN THE  
FACE OF OPPRESSION  
IS NO FAITH AT ALL.”

*William Wilberforce*

**Think Biblically**  
**Live Biblically**  
**Promote Unity**  
**Pray Fervently**

## **James 1:26-27**

**<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.**

**<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**

## **Luke 4:18-19**

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and  
recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those  
who are oppressed,**

**<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”**

