

SINS OF PROPHETS AND KINGS

December 13, 2015

Micah 3:1-4:5

“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 3:5

Micah prophesied regarding judgment that was coming to Samaria, the capital of Israel, and to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, his homeland. He prophesied in Judah between 750-686 BC, and is distinguished for having foretold that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, a small town near to his own home.

His prophecies against Samaria and Jerusalem name these cities because they were the centers of power and corruption in the two nations, but each is named as a metaphor for the entire nations of Israel and Judah. Judgment would come upon them because they had forsaken God, embracing greed, abuse of authority and idolatry, with all of its perversions and corruptions.

Micah’s denunciations focused especially upon people with power within these nations: rulers and prophets. Men occupying these offices were responsible to lead the nation in the best interest of the people. These rulers were rather controlled by their own selfish interests, making the people mere items for their own enrichment. Micah denounced their conduct as that which brought divine judgment and abandonment upon them, and thus the nation also.

Micah’s prophecy is divided into three discourses, each beginning with the exhortation “Hear,” or “listen” (1:1-2:13; 3:1-5:15; 6:1-20). His name means “who is like Jehovah?” The commingling of rebuke, prophesied destruction and restoration concludes with one of the greatest proclamations of God’s mercy found in all of Scripture, illustrating the prophet’s name. The first portion of Micah’s second discourse includes these elements:

1. A rebuke of the leaders (3:1-4)

- A. Their duty was to administer justice, but they ruled unjustly, with no love for right or for good
- B. They preyed on the people, rather than serving them
- C. They will cry unto God, but He will not hear them.

2. A rebuke of the false prophets (3:5-7)

- A. They should be guiding people to the right, but are rather making them err
- B. They prophecy good for those who enrich them
- C. They will be given darkness, no prophecies, and shame

3. An affirmation of Micah’s anointed prophetic ministry: full of power, justice and right (3:8).

4. A rebuke of leaders, priests and prophets: they built through injustice and bribes, and their accomplishments will come to ruin (3:9-12).

5. A prophecy of the establishment of God’s kingdom upon earth (4:1-5).

- A. It will be above all other kingdoms, with international acclaim
- B. Jehovah will judge with international justice
- C. His rule will be one of peace and prosperity