

February 26, 2023 PM- Pastor Kevin Olivier

Micah 3:1-4 – “A Warning to Rulers”

A. Why does God use warnings?

B. Micah foretold of a coming judgment upon **“Samaria & Jerusalem” (1:1)**. He promised, **“I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country” (v6)**.

God gives dreadful warnings to wicked rulers.	I. <u>DEEDS OF WICKED RULERS-</u> II. <u>GOD’S JUDGMENT UPON WICKED RULERS</u>
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I. DEEDS OF WICKED RULERS-

A. In v1, Micah gave the rulers of God’s people a broad rebuke: **“Hear now, heads of Jacob & rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice?”**

1. God gave them an office of authority to rule with a duty: Is it not your duty **“to know justice?”**

a. It is the duty of electricians to know how to direct & control electricity.

b. It is the duty of mechanics to know engines.

c. During the life of Micah, some **“heads of Jacob & rulers of the house of Israel”** didn’t know justice because they never practiced it.

2. In Deuteronomy, God laid-out plenty of guidelines on how they should have ruled; however, they no doubt neglected the Scriptures.

B. In v2, Micah opened by saying, **“You who hate good & love evil.”**

1. God inspired Isaiah to write something similar in Isa 5:20-21: **“Woe to those who call evil good, & good evil; who substitute darkness for light & light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet & sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes & clever in their own sight!”**

2. These verses apply to our rulers in America today!

a. Homosexuality is the new virtue. If you speak-out against it, you are considered a bigot who uses “hate speech.”

b. Even in our parish, those publishing books promoting gender confusion are supported while Christian parents wanting to guard their children are considered extremists.

3. The music of our day does the same. Some rap music glorifies womanizing, drug dealing, being “high like an addict,” & using handguns to shoot or “drop caps” in people.

C. Micah went on to say how some wicked rulers were so selfish that they were devouring their own people. →vv2-3

1. Rather than taking their God-given office as an opportunity to lead & to serve their people, they used their position of privilege to devour their own citizens.

2. They were worse than leeches; they were more like rabid wolves or jackals.

II. GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON WICKED RULERS →**v4**

- A. When the siege of Jerusalem came, the rulers & the people were both in the same fix.
1. Both were starving & suffering from pestilence as the extended siege went on.
 2. Both cried out to the Lord, yet only the common people were allowed to go into captivity.
 - a. The covenant youth who were attractive & intelligent— like Daniel & his companions were taken into captivity.
 - b. Many who ruled were counted among those who rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar & were either executed or tortured & then executed. Perhaps for some, the words of Micah in **v4** rang in their ears.
- B. In modern times today, God continues to warn rulers from this & other passages of Scripture.
1. It is often the case for those who practice wicked deeds & lie upon their death beds without true repentance & without faith in Christ, they may **“cry out to the Lord, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time.”**
 - a. God will **“shall break them with a rod of iron... [&] shatter them like earthenware”** according to **Ps 2:9**.
 - b. Those who are cast into the pit of hell will have no opportunity for relief yet will suffer horrible torments for all eternity.
 2. For those who heed the warnings are called repent of their sin & unbelief, embracing the holy Messiah by faith. → **Ps 2:10-12**
- C. Today's warning can be applied to all people— all those who **“practiced evil deeds” (v4)**.
1. Even those who profess faith in Christ yet fall away, **v4** is a fearful warning as well. Such persons **“will cry out to the Lord, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time because they have practiced evil deeds.”**
 - a. It is true that any sin except for blaspheme of the Holy Spirit (**Mat 12:22-32**).
 - b. It is also true that even the NT gives us very stern warnings against turning away from Christ & His church to go down the path of wickedness. → **Heb 6:1-8**
 2. For those who truly belong to Christ, don't be surprised when **Heb 6** & other such warnings stir up at least some fear in your hearts. For the elect, God often uses the fear of falling away to keep you clinging tightly to Him & His means of grace.

Review, further application, & conclusion: