



Title: The Sins of Corrupt Leaders – Civil and Ceremonial Leadership Failures

Text: Micah 3:1-12

A. The Civil Leaders Failed to Know Judgment:

1 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?

B. The Civil Leaders Hate the Good and Love the Evil and They Treated People like They Were Cannibals. (Psalm 52:3; Amos 5:15; John 3:19-20; Romans 12:9)

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.

C. God will not Hear Their Prayers because of Their Abuse.

4 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.

D. The Religious (Ceremonial) Leaders: They Please the People, Preach Peace But Not Judgment.

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.

E. God's Judgment towards the False Religious Leaders:

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.

F. The True Prophet – Micah – shall be Vindicated:

8 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.

G. More Corruption of the Civil and Ceremonial Leaders:

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.

H. The Judgment of God Against the Civil and Ceremonial Leaders:

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.

Conclusion:

1. Think of the importance and critical role of societies leaders. They can make or break a nation, a home, a workforce, a society, a church. Success rises and falls on leadership.
2. God qualifies His leaders: Proverbs 10:3; Jeremiah 3:15;
3. God will judge the unrighteous leaders: Matthew 12:36; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:6.
4. 3:12 – was fulfilled at the Fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C. through Babylon).