

# The Book of Micah

## “Who is like Yah?”

### Chapter 3

#### Micah 3:1-2a

- Justice:
  - (1) Love good and hate evil.
  - (2) No favor to the rich or to the poor.
  - (3) Tempered with mercy.

#### Political abuses in Micah 3

- Hate the good and love the evil (2).
- Exploit (devour) people’s wealth (3).
- Pervert their actions (4).
- Revolt against biblical teaching (8).
- Hate justice, misuse law (9).
- Commit murder and other crimes (10).
- Judges who take bribes (11).

#### Micah 3:2b-3

- Metaphor? Or cannibalism in a seige?

#### How to ‘eat’ others’ wealth

- Direct & hidden taxes, fees, charges.
- Borrow fiat money, indebt the people.
- Bribes, kickbacks, favors, donations.
- Lending at excessive usuary rates.
- Exploitive housing, health & heat costs.
- Insider trading and selling ‘short’.
- Market manipulation (gold certificates).

#### Micah 3:3-4

- Time: Coming invasion and exile.
- Evil: Desire for power, privilege, money, revenge, respect, repression.

#### When God will not answer prayer

- Leaders who exploit their people.
- To spend it on our ‘lusts’.
- When he provided it, and we wasted it.
- Ask him to kill lost folk.
- Ask him to give life to Christ deniers.
- Ask for healing while self-poisoning.
- Pray in the name of a false god/dess.

#### Micah 3:5

- Pagan prophets were required to bless kings and approve their plans.

#### False prophets named in the bible

**Balaam** (Numbers 22-24): A prophet hired by Balak, king of Moab, to curse the Israelites. Instead, Balaam prophesied blessings upon them, despite his initial intentions.

**Zedekiah**, son of Chenaanah (1 Kings 22:11): A prophet who falsely prophesied the defeat of King Jehoshaphat and the destruction of Jerusalem.

**Hananiah** (Jeremiah 28): A false prophet who claimed that God would soon restore the Babylonian exile and allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Jeremiah, a true prophet, refuted Hananiah’s claims.

**Bar-Jesus** (Acts 13:6-12): A Jewish false prophet who opposed the spread of Christianity in Paphos. He was blinded by God as punishment for his deceit.

**Job’s friends** (Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar, Job 4-27): While not explicitly called false prophets, their words were misguided and unhelpful to Job, leading to a false understanding of God’s justice.

**Prophetic abuses in Micah 3**

- Mislead the people (5).
- Announce peace for a price (5).
- Announce war if not paid (5).
- Foretell the future for a salary (11).
- Leverage theological beliefs (11).
- Deny God’s immanent judgment (11).

**Micah 3:6-7**

- Vision: Foreseeing events.
- Secrets: Revealing hidden events.
- Prophet: Hears and repeats messages.
- Seer: Describes visions.
- Diviner: Interprets omens and signs.

**Pagan divination**

- Subjective guesses while peering into a cup of wine, or viewing viscera.
- Consult witches who call on spirits or ghosts of the dead.
- Receive thoughts while worshiping gods or making blood sacrifices.
- Drug-induced hallucinations.

**Micah 3:8**

- Micah may not have been a member of the prophets’ guild.

**True OT prophets (Deut. 18)**

- Designated spokesmen of God.
- Receive messages from God.
- Meet criteria:
  - 1) An Israelite.
  - 2) Speaks in Yahweh’s name.
  - 3) Conforms to earlier revelations.
  - 4) Foretells the near future.
  - 5) May perform a miraculous sign.

**How to prophesy, 1 Cor. 14:26-40**

- All may prophesy (31)
- Follow NT guidelines (37).
- Listen for a ‘revelation’ (30).
- Keep control of yourself (32-33).
- Await your turn (29-30).
- Build up and encourage (4, 26, 31).
- Let others evaluate (29).

**Micah 3:9-12**

- The prophets spoke to government.
- Power may not corrupt, but money certainly does.
- Plow: Overturn weeds to plant useful crops.
- High place: A pagan worship site.

Prophet*	Propheesied	Kings Who Ruled During Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (bc)	Prophet's Place of Birth
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800	Abel Meholah
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673	Jerusalem
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582	Anathoth
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-570	Jerusalem
Daniel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-540	Judah (Jerusalem?)
Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725	Israel
Joel	To Judah	Governor Ezra	450	Jerusalem
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II	765-754	Tekoa**
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590	Jerusalem
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781	Gath Hopher**
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698	Moreseth-gath**
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615	Elkosh**
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598	Unknown
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626	Unknown
Haggai	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	520	Jerusalem
Zechariah	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	522-509	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	465	Jerusalem

**Jerusalem was captured 22 times, including:**

- 586 BC Babylonians, Nebuchadnezzar II.
- 198 BC Seleucid Greeks, Antiochus III.
- 63 BC Romans, Pompei.
- 70 AD Romans, Titus.
- 1917 AD British, Edmund Allenby.
- 1967 AD Zionists, Moshe Dayan
- 2024 AD? Iranians? Pezeshkian?

**Temples in Jerusalem, completed**

- 1 The wilderness tabernacle. 13th cent BC
- 2 Solomon's 'first' temple. c. 960 BC
- 3 Zerubbabel's temple. 515 BC
- 4 Herod's 'second' temple. AD 63
- 5 Jesus' physical body. c. 2 BC – AD 33
- 6 Ezekiel's millennial temple. AD 2030?
- 7 God himself in a new Jerusalem. 3033?

**Paid or voluntary clergy**

**Arguments for a paid clergy**

- Allow them to serve full-time.
- Reward for work done well.
- Maintain performance standards.
- Can be hired and fired.
- Motivate the gifted into ministry.
- Provide for their own retirement.
- Honor God with members' income.

**Arguments for a volunteer clergy**

- Appoint the most gifted to office.
- Appoint the highly motivated.
- Share authority and opportunity.
- They learn dependence on God.
- This keeps new churches affordable.
- Devote more to evangelism & mission.
- Eliminate clergy-class privileges.

**Historical development of paid clergy**

**Early church (1st to 4th centuries)**

- Fixed salaries for clergy did not exist.
- Clergy sustained themselves.
- Clergy often supported poor believers.
- Itinerate preachers depended on gifts.
- Clergy were recognized by their gifts, maturity and generosity.

**Medieval church (5th to 15th cents)**

- Emperor decreed duties & incomes.
- State made land grants with tithes.
- Bishops received land and privileges.
- Church and state mutually supportive.
- Clergy appointments were subject to approval by both church and state.

**Post-reformation (16th onwards)**

- Protestants rejected church hierarchies.
- Coined 'the priesthood of all believers'.
- The clergy funded by gifts & offerings.
- Coined the concept of a 'living wage'.
- Temporary use of gentry-owned land.
- Clergy adopt a theological system.

**Modern (18th century to the present)**

- Formal systems for paying clergy.
- Standard salaries.
- Paid by denominational funds.
- Amounts vary by region & tradition.
- Other benefits (housing & health).
- Evangelicals paid by congregations.

**Recent (mid-20th century to the present)**

- Rapid multiplication practices.
- Volunteer evangelists & 'shepherds'.
- Believers give to meet urgent needs.
- Movements are led by visionary clergy.
- Sponsors subsidize trainers & coaches.
- Reproductive leaders supported by 'upstream' contributions.