

Micah 3

1. These leaders were the ones that sat in the gates and handed out judgement in regards issues between men. Shouldn't a judge know about justice?
Romans 2:1 It is easy for us to be Christians and know what Christlikeness is without living it.
 2. Psalm 14:4; Proverbs 30:14 They take the substance of the people in their greed. This probably involved some kind of kickbacks (verse 11).
 3. Their robbery of their necessities was destroying the lives of these poor people like chopping them up for stew. Quite a graphic description!
 4. 'Then' – at the time of judgement which Micah is sure the Righteous Judge has already set. What they sow, they will reap. Sow hardhearted devastation and reap the same. Don't listen to the cries of the poor and the Lord will not listen to your cry. If we only realized the measuring cup we used to others will be used for us, we would be much more generous with grace and forgiveness and love. Matthew 7:2
 5. They prophesy for reward. I've witnessed it myself in this day. False prophets don't care about what the Lord has to say. They are only concerned about personal gain. 'They prepare to wage war', in Hebrew literally means the pronounce a holy war. Reminds us of the Islamic use of Jihad.
 6. To forecast darkness is to predict calamity. Not only would they be taken captive, but they cannot see in the Spirit. The gift they had will not be functional when they will most desperately desire to use it. They abused it, and God took it away. Zechariah 13:4
 7. God will not speak to them because He has forsaken them. Their shame is that they once heard but rebelled and took the Almighty for granted, using His gifts for carnal desires. Now their gift is gone. The people knew they were forsaken by God because they could not give a Divine answer. They were ashamed of their fallen condition.
 8. Speaking the truth, even if it is hard to receive, gives the prophet the empowerment of God. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as that power.
Luke 24:49 2Timothy 1:7 Isaiah 58:1
- 9-10 Full of that power he now declares the chief sin of the leaders.
- 11 The judges are getting kickbacks, making their decisions on who will reward them the most. 7:3 Do we make decisions based on what we will get out of it or

upon the leading of God in truth and righteousness? The priests were to be funded by the tithes and offerings, instead they hired themselves out. Jeremiah 6:13 I just talked with some pastors about the fact that in the ministry most men think a call is from God if it means more money, yet in reality it often meant more trouble and hardship. The prophets will give a word from God – a good one – if you will pay them. They thought they were ok to live for money as long as they kept up the ritual. Jeremiah 7:8-11 Doesn't happen today does it? How can we avoid this hardhearted deception? Ephesians 4:22 "deceitful desires"

12 "Jeremiah 26:18 quotes this verse. The Talmud and MAIMONIDES record that at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans under Titus, Terentius Rufus, who was left in command of the army, with a ploughshare tore up the foundations of the temple." —Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary
So deserted, that wild shrubs will grow up. This was unimaginable to the Jews. It would be as hard as for us to imagine no gasoline or an utter collapse of the world economy. It was a total change of their way of life.