

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

MICAH 1-3

The book of Micah is a series of three sermons. The prophet begins each sermon with the word “Hear.”

Micah 1:2, “Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth...”

Micah 3:1, “Hear now, O heads of Jacob, and you rulers of the house of Israel...”

And in Micah 6:1, “Hear now what the LORD says...”

God spoke to His people through the Prophet Micah, but here’s the question, “*were they listening?*”

Once, a man was driving down the highway when he saw a real-live Indian lying in the middle of the road. This Native American had his ear on the pavement.

The man stopped to investigate, and he heard the Indian mumbling, “Large wheels, wide tires, Ford truck, color green, large dog sitting beside the driver, Alabama license plate, traveling at least 80 mph.”

The on-looker was amazed. He asked, “*You can get that much detailed of what’s coming just by listening with your ear to the ground?*” The Indian answered, “Not hardly... that’s the truck that just ran over me.”

Well, Micah also had *his ear to the ground* - or better yet - *his ear to the heavens!* The prophet had faithfully listened to God, and was proclaiming His warnings.

But like the Indian, whether people listened to Micah or not, God’s warnings were real. The entire Middle East had already

been steamrolled by the equivalent of a truck. The Assyrian army was on the warpath...

Assyria began her conquest of the Fertile Crescent in the year 745 BC. For the next 100 years every king east of the Euphrates River would live in mortal fear of the Assyrians. By 732, much of the land bridge linking Asia and Africa was under Assyria's control...

Philistia fell - as did Damascus. The two Hebrew capitols were next - both Samaria and Jerusalem.

And God warned His people, **“turn from your sin or suffer My judgment.”** The middle of the 8th century BC saw a flurry of prophets trumpeting God's coming judgment - *Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah.*

For 200 years God tolerated His people's idolatry, but His patience has an expiration. Unless the people repent, they'll get run over. **The prophets had *heard* from God, but would the Hebrews *hear* the prophets?**

The book of Micah begins, **“The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.”** Micah was sent to both Hebrew nations... the northern kingdom of Israel and its capitol of Samaria - as well as, the southern kingdom of Judah and the city of Jerusalem.

Micah prophesied during the reigns of three Judean kings: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah - from 735-700 BC.

Notice two important points about Micah...

First, like Amos he was *all country*. Micah was from Moresheth - a farming community 25 miles southeast of Jerusalem. Micah was a *hick from the sticks*, yet God sent him to the big city to confront kings and priests. The Prophet had an uncommon courage.

And **second**, the meaning of the name "*Micah*" is also the theme of His message. The Hebrew word translated, "*Micah*" means "*who is like Yahweh?*"

And this is the issue that preoccupies the prophet. Micah's intention is to elaborate on God's character. He tells us, God has no peer! The *fierceness of His wrath* and the *lavishness of His love* are both without comparison. *Who is like Him? No one is like our Lord...*

Micah's first sermon begins with a bang! "*Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it!*"

Notice, Micah's prophecy isn't just to Samaria and Jerusalem, but it's to "*all people*" - the whole earth.

God descends from heaven, "*For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.*"

Here's the first truth Micah teaches us, **God doesn't always stay in His place.** He's "*coming out of His place!*" If you served an idol you would be able to clear off a space on your shelf or mantle, put the idol on display, and it would never move. *Idols stay put.*

Or you can keep your idol in the garage, or wear it on your finger, or deposit it in the bank. You can live your life around your idol. A good idol knows its place. It doesn't butt in where it's not wanted. It keeps silent. An idol never interferes with our self-centered lives.

But not so, with the true God! He's the ultimate party crasher. God doesn't stay put. He's the Lord of life.

God has dominion over every area of our lives.

If you please Him, *He'll say so*. But if you displease Him, *He'll let you know*. There's one certainty - God will not be ignored. You never know when God will rock the boat. God could care less about being politically correct. He has no respect for our status quo.

Micah sees the Lord *“coming out of His place.”*

He's not content to hide in heaven and rule from a comfortable distance. He likes to leave the great beyond - the eternal realm - to invade time and space.

God not only exists. He impacts our existence. *He is infinitely high, but He is also intimately nigh*. God dives in, and gets involved, and intervenes in our lives. He is a hands-on God. This is Micah's message to Judah.

And this is what Christmas is all about...

Borrowing from the words of Micah - Christmas is God *“coming out of His place”* - to live in **our** place.

God left His heavenly throne for the womb of a virgin. John 1:14 puts it *“The Word was made flesh and moved into the*

neighborhood.” God saw our pain and plight, so He came “*out of His place*” to be our Savior.

Yet Micah also sees God “*coming out of His place*” to judge our sin. And when He does, nature bows before Him. In verse 3 he sees *mountains melt, valleys split, and waters pour* when God comes out of His place.

At Jesus’ second coming He’ll return to Earth and punish the wicked. John saw this future event, and wrote in Revelation 16:20, “*Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*” When God comes out of His place the planet convulses - mountains vanish.

Who is like our God?... He has no rivals or equals.

Verse 5 tells us why God is “*coming out of His place...*” It’s the reason Jesus will return to Earth in the last days. Micah explains, “*All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?*” God is coming to punish sin.

And He intends to judge the capitol cities of both Hebrew nations. **Samaria** was a microcosm of the nation Israel, and **Jerusalem** was Judah in a nutshell.

These capitols had an undue influence on the surrounding villages. And this is how it works today.

Certain cities set the trends for the rest of the country. *New York fashion* and *LA style* set the pace for America’s heartland. God judges the cultural centers and the commercial hubs because of their influence.

“Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, and I will uncover her foundations.” In 722 BC the Assyrian king, Sargon II, destroyed the stronghold of Samaria. The city was finished off six centuries later, during the Maccabean revolt, by the fighting Jewish priest, John Hyrcanus.

Flavius Josephus stated, "When Hyrcanus took the city, after a year's siege, he was not content with doing that only, but he demolished it entirely, and brought streams of water to flood it. Nay, he took away the very marks that there had ever been such a city there."

Hyrcanus completely destroyed ancient Samaria, and fulfilled the prophecy of Micah written here...

Verse 7 notes the sin of Samaria, “All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, and all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; all her idols I will lay desolate, for she gathered it from the pay of a harlot.”

Samaria’s sin was idolatry. God considers it spiritual infidelity. She was an unfaithful lover. Rather than give her affections to God, she had given them to idols.

“Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the jackals and a mourning like the ostriches, for her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; it has come to the gate of My people - to Jerusalem.” Notice, the sin of the northern kingdom had spread south. Israel’s idolatry was infecting Judah and Jerusalem. It was because of evil influence, God *came out of His place!*

In his commentary on this book, Walter Kaiser writes, "Micah is not a dispassionate observer, steeled against the terrors he predicts. Instead, he is so torn apart by the grief that was to come that he wails like a banshee and howls like a jackal as he goes about naked in deep despair." In ancient times when life got *tough* the prophet of God would appear in the *buff*.

Physical nakedness was a sign of a person's grief.

God had revealed to Micah the *bare facts* - the *naked truth* - His people had sinned. Micah was so torn up over Israel's transgression, he walked naked among God's people as an expression of his disappointment.

In essence, Micah was a *microcosm of God's heart*. Call him a *Micahcosm*. God is never pleased to punish. It grieves Him deeply. He'd rather forgive and bless. Micah mourns, as God mourns, over His people.

And notice too, Micah's sad statement in verse 9. He says of Israel, "*her wounds are incurable.*" *How would you like for the Great Physician to say that of you?* The Great Healer to say, "*I'm sorry, there's nothing else I can do.*" Samaria is being turned over to hospice. Her sin has taken its toll, there's nothing else God can do.

It reminds me of the desperate pilot's message to the air traffic control, "*Pilot to tower... pilot to tower... I am 300 miles from land.. 600 feet high and running out of fuel... please instruct... over.*" A voice from the control tower replied, "Tower

to pilot... tower to pilot... repeat after me... **Our Father, which art in heaven...**”

This is Micah's message to the northern kingdom. She was down for the count. Judgment was inevitable.

After the fall of Samaria in 722 BC Jerusalem lost its northern buffer between itself and the Assyrians.

Micah knew there was now nothing standing between the enemy's army and the gates of his own capitol, Jerusalem. Many of the cities in the suburbs around Jerusalem fell to the Assyrian army.

In fact, a mural was found in the ruins of Nineveh that records the boast of King Sennecherib over his conquest of Judah. It's now on display in the London Museum. It reads, **"As for Hezekiah of Judah, who did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to 46 of his strong cities, walled forts, and to countless small villages in their vicinity, and conquered them... I drove out 200,150 people... Hezekiah himself I shut up like a caged bird with Jerusalem, his royal city... and turned back to his disaster any who went out of its city gate."**

In the next verses Micah predicts the fall of the same cities Sennecherib boasted of defeating. Most of the 12 cities he mentions were within a ten mile radius of Micah's hometown, Moresheth, south of Jerusalem.

Verse 10, **"Tell it not in Gath, weep not at all; in Beth Aphrah roll yourself in the dust."** Micah was one of the more articulate prophets. To capture the people's attention he used alliterations and puns. Here he employs a play on words to describe these judgments.

"*Gath*" means "to announce." So "*tell it not in Gath*" could be translated, "tell it not in Tell-town." "*Beth Aphrah*" means "house of dust." Thus he writes, "*weep not at all; in Beth Aphrah roll yourself in the dust.*"

It would be like me writing... "A gust of wind will level **Augusta**... *All is not well in Roswell*... Beware of sins in **Athens**... *Judgment heads to Buckhead*... **Lilburn** should turn or burn... **Decatur** will decay... *Norcross needs the cross*... **Chamblee** is a sham... **Suwanee** will sing its swan song... *Duluth has rejected the truth*... **Monroe** has got to go... *Toccoa will blow-a away*... And **Stone Mountain** takes God for granite."

And we could go on. But you get the point. Micah was good with puns to forecast God's punishment.

"Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir (which means "beauty town"); the inhabitant of Zaanan (a city which means "go forth") does not go out.

Beth Ezel (or "the house of taking away") mourns; its place to stand is taken away from you.

For the inhabitant of Maroth ("bitter town") pined for good, but disaster came down from the Lord to the gate of Jerusalem. O inhabitant of Lachish (which means "to the steeds"), harness the chariot to the swift steeds..." Micah is saying to Lachish get ready for war.

And here's why... "(She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), for the transgressions of Israel were found in you." Lachish was the trendy part of town. All the perversions of the northern kingdom found their way to

Lachish. It was the influential district that spread the evil of Samaria - *“the beginning of sin.”*

Verse 14, *“Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; the houses of Achzib (which means “deception”) shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.*

I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah (“the conqueror”); the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam (or “refuge”). Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, because of your precious children; enlarge your baldness like an eagle, for they shall go from you into captivity.” In other words, mourn and weep for all the destruction that is coming upon you.

Chapter 2, *“Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand.”*

Here’s how thoroughly wicked the people were. They both *went to bed and woke up* thinking evil thoughts.

“They covet fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.” Remember the land in Israel was considered sacred. Land belonged to God and He allocated it to His people. In the book of Joshua each tribe and family was allotted a specific parcel to remain in their permanent possession.

Even if the property was used to secure a loan and ended up being foreclosed on - at the end of seven years it was returned to its original owners.

Due to the connection between God and the land, the sin of land grabbing was particularly frowned on.

Recall the downfall of King Ahab occurred when he cheated Naboth out of his vineyard! In an agrarian society to steal a man's land is to rob him of his means to support his family. It upset God that greedy people took advantage of the poor and confiscated property.

“Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks; nor shall you walk haughtily, for this is an evil time. In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, and lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: ‘We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; how He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.’” Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot in the assembly of the Lord.”

In the ultimate irony, greedy land grabbers will in the end have their lands taken by the invading armies.

Recall what Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount, *who is it that inherits the earth?* **The meek!** Those who put others first are exalted in the end.

Verse 6, “**Do not prattle,**” you say to those who prophesy.” The wicked people in Judah were trying to silence godly men like Micah. They didn't want to hear God's truth. They referred to the Prophet Micah's message as “*prattle.*” The word means “**drip or drool.**”

They considered Micah's prophecy to be nothing but *slobber*. It's sad when folks willingly reject God's truth.

It's interesting the Hebrew word *"prattle"* is in the plural. Perhaps it's referring not just to Micah, but to all the prophets. They had the same disdain for Isaiah, and Hosea, and Amos. They were closed to God's truth.

And notice how verse 6 ends, *"So they shall not prophesy to you; they shall not return insult for insult."*

Here's God's final judgment on a people - when He withdraws His prophets and leaves that people without a voice to warn them. Rather than let His prophets get into a shouting match, returning insult for insult, God just pulls the plug. His prophets go silent. When that happens, you know it's the calm before the storm.

Verse 7, *"You who are named the house of Jacob: "Is the Spirit of the Lord restricted? Are these His doings?"* In other words, who are you to tell God what He can and cannot say? You're the one who's drooling.

"Do not My words do good to him who walks uprightly?" And we would answer "Amen!" God's Word does do good to those who take it seriously and obey.

Verse 8, *"Lately My people have risen up as an enemy..."* There's an expression from an old Pogo comic strip, *"We have met the enemy and he is us."*

This is what Micah is saying about the Jews in Jerusalem, *"We've become our own worst enemies."*

“You pull off the robe with the garment from those who trust you, as they pass by, like men returned from war.” The Law taught the people to be kind to the poor.

Often all a man had to keep him warm at night was his coat. Exodus 22:26 said if you took a man's coat as collateral you were to make sure to give it back to him by nightfall. Instead, the rich of Jerusalem were stripping the poor of their garments as a conqueror would strip his captives. The rich were supposed to treat the poor as if they were brothers, and befriend them, instead the rich had become the enemy of the poor.

It reminds me of the man who was going door-to-door through the neighborhood collecting money for a needy family. The father had lost his job, the wife was ill, the kids had no clothes, the family had no money for food, and they were several months behind on the rent.

At one house this fellow was asked, *“Well tell us, who are you?”* To which he replied, *“The needy family's landlord.”* I suppose he was trying to befriend the poor.

Verse 9, *“The women of My people you cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children you have taken away My glory forever.”* These land grabbers were ruthless. They were tossing widows and children.

It reminds me of an article that appeared in an Austin, Texas newspaper. *“Landlord, John Mattingly, 26, in October served an eviction notice on his grandmother, Dorothy Webb, 85, for nonpayment of rent. In court she commented, ‘I guess I’m just not dying fast enough (for him).’ How low can you go? I mean, how can anybody evict their own grandma?”*

It sounds like the greedy landlords in Micah's day.

God says to them, "Arise and depart, for this is not your rest; because it is defiled, it shall destroy, yes, with utter destruction." Since they were so quick to put the poor out on the street, God will evict His people from the land He promised them. Samaria was sacked by Assyria in 722 BC, and Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians in 586. God was true to His word.

Judah will come home one day, and find it's stuff out in the street. *Their place of rest will be anything but...*

"If a man should walk in a false spirit and speak a lie, saying, 'I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,' even he would be the prattler of this people." In other word, the real slobberer is the false preacher who tells you what you want to hear. He's the one who encourages you to indulge your lusts and appetites. *"Drink your wine, God doesn't care about the life you live!"*

The lie that you can do as you please - that holiness doesn't matter - this is the real spiritual drool. Always remember, just saying it's so, doesn't make it so.

Beware of *the slobber* spoken by some preachers.

Realize each of Micah's three sermons have a similar structure. They begin with the word "*Hear...*"

That's followed by the **condemnation** of their sin.

Which is followed by God's judgment or **devastation**.

Which is then followed by an **affirmation** of God's love and His future **restoration**... Here's how Micah's sermons flow...

condemnation, devastation, but then comes God's *affirmation* and ultimately His *restoration*.

This means Chapter 2 ends on a high note. Even though the kingdoms of Israel and Judah fell, verse 12 predicts that God will reassemble them in the future.

As a shepherd gathers His lost sheep, "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people."

Notice the phrase "*the fold*" - in Hebrew it's actually the name "*Bozrah*" - of which its leading city was the rock fortress of Petra. And according to Isaiah 63 it's at Bozrah that Jesus will return and slay the armies of the Antichrist, and bring back the exiles to Jerusalem.

We're excited about visiting Petra this February.

The chapter closes, "The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it; their king will pass before them, with the Lord at their head." I love the name Micah gives to God here, "*the One who breaks open*."

Try to limit God - try to restrict Him - tell Him what He can and can't do... *Try to stuff God in a box*, and watch Him break it open. He's "*the One who breaks open*."

Perhaps you feel boxed in today - maybe by foolish choices, or circumstances beyond your control. Here's good news "*the One who breaks open*" lives in you.

Jesus can shatter chains - set us free - reassemble our lives. His people will go in and out of the gates freely. And notice *“the Lord will be at their head.”* King Jesus will reign... *“Their king will pass before them.”*

It’s a beautiful picture of a day yet future for Israel, but it’s a picture of what today can be for the believer!

Micah Chapter 3 begins a new sermon. Our thoughts are on Messiah’s kingdom - our minds are soaring, when suddenly they come crashing back to earth. *“And I said: “Hear now, O heads of Jacob, and you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?”*

We’ve been thinking about Messiah’s reign - *“the One who breaks open”*, but that’s not who’s ruling right now. Today, wicked men occupy positions of power.

In Ecclesiastes 3:16 Solomon also bemoans the fact that wicked men were in posts of authority. He saw *“In the place of judgment, wickedness was there; and in the place of righteousness iniquity was there.”*

There’s an old saying, *“Right forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.”* Until King Jesus returns this sinful world will suffer under corrupt leadership.

Every year in Cumbria, England they host an event known as *“The World’s Biggest Liar Competition.”*

Competitors from all over the globe get five minutes to tell the biggest tall tale they can dream up. Props and scripts are not allowed. *There’s one other rule...*

Politicians and lawyers are barred from the competition... *and do you know why?* The organizers say

politicians are too skilled at telling lies. They're considered professional liars. It's an unfair advantage.

Micah continues describing the wicked rulers of his day, verse 2, "You who hate good and love evil..."

God's desire is for us to "love good and hate evil." The rulers in Micah's day had it all backwards.

These wicked men were also like leaders "who strip the skin from My people, and the flesh from their bones; who also eat the flesh of My people, flay their skin from them, break their bones, and chop them in pieces like meat for the pot, like flesh in the caldron."

This is a description of the wartime tactics of the Assyrian army. This is how they tortured their defeated foes. They would mutilate and filet their victims alive.

The Assyrians were bloodthirsty and vicious.

And the wicked, predatory rulers of Jerusalem and Samaria were about to fall into their very hands.

"Then they will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, because they have been evil in their deeds.

Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who make my people stray; who chant "Peace" while they chew with their teeth, but who prepare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths..." False prophets predict *peace*, while the enemy prepares for *war*.

"Therefore you shall have night without vision, and you shall have darkness without divination; the sun shall go down on

the prophets, and the day shall be dark for them.” In other words, these false prophets won’t have a clue. There will be no vision from heaven.

Consider the words, “*The sun shall go down on the prophets.*” There will be no help for them from heaven.

Verse 7, “So the seers shall be ashamed, and the diviners abashed; indeed they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer from God.” When judgment comes they’ll cry out to God, but He won’t answer.

“But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.” Here’s the difference between Micah and the false prophets...

Micah was full of the power of the Holy Spirit!

The Spirit of God was filling his sails, moving him forward against the current of corruption. God’s Spirit made him bold and brave. God gave him fortitude to walk in purity, and the fight to stand against the evil.

Some Christians have the idea that the filling of the Holy Spirit is all about making them feel happy.

And the Holy Spirit will make you *happy*, but more importantly He’ll make you *holy*. **The primary purpose for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is *boldness not goosebumps*.** God filled the Prophet Micah with the power of His Spirit to stand against the sins of Israel.

“**Now hear this...** (sounds like a command on a Navy vessel... **Now hear this!**) **you heads of the house of Jacob**

and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build up Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with iniquity: her heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money.”

Everyone was playing “[The Price Is Right](#)” - they were all in it for the money - the government officials, the priests, and the prophets.

The Jews had the best politicians money can buy. And the religious establishment were just as corrupt.

In the **court** you could buy a favorable verdict with a bribe... At **church** you could pay for a sermon that would tickle your ears... The leaders could be bought.

It reminds me of the two beggars sitting on a park bench in Ireland. One man is holding a cross and the other man a star of David. Well, everyone walks up to the man with the cross and hands him a dollar. Nobody is bothering to give to a guy holding the Star of David.

Finally, an Irishman walks over and says to the Jewish beggar with the Star of David, “[Look fellow, this is a Christian country, you won't get much holding a Jewish emblem.](#)” The man with the Star turns to the guy with the cross, and says, “[Moishe, check this out, a Gentile is trying to tell us how to run our business?](#)”

The point being... the Jews in Micah's day were just as corrupt and greedy. It was riches not righteousness that motivated the rulers, and priests, and prophets.

You've heard the expression, "every man has his price." I hope not. There are things that cost more than money - *peace of mind, integrity, a good reputation.*

If you're being tempted to sell out, think twice. Are you really that cheap that you would put *temporal gain* ahead of *eternal reward*? With God's help we all can be men and women of honest and trusted character.

Verse 11, "Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us."

The greedy in Micah's day had been lulled into a false sense of security. They thought, because they were God's chosen, and had the name, "Israel" - or "prince of God" - they were immune from His judgment.

Micah says, Judah is in for a rude awakening.

Just because God worked in your life in the past doesn't mean your future with Him is secure. As we learned in Ezekiel 18, it's what's current that counts. A faith that saves is an active and up-to-date faith.

Chapter 3 has an interesting closing, "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest."

History tells us that the Jerusalem of Micah's day heard the prophet's warning and repented of their sin.

When the Assyrian army surrounded the city of Jerusalem, King Hezekiah cried out to God for deliverance. And in one night God sent an angel who slaughtered 185,000 Assyrians and saved His people.

Yet this verse, Micah 3:12, plays an interesting role. A hundred years later, this is the verse that gets quoted by the religious leaders who wanted to save Jeremiah.

The Prophet Jeremiah is on trial before the religious establishment, and there are Jews who want his head.

In Jeremiah 26:18 several of the leading Jews stand up for the prophet. They compare Jeremiah to Micah...

They say, "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: (and they quote Micah 3:12) Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest.'" The princes supporting Jeremiah admit that Micah's words were fiery and incendiary, *but the king didn't kill him*. Hezekiah listened and repented.

And they should do the same. It's interesting that what happened to Micah helped save Jeremiah's life.

Unfortunately, in the end, the later Jews rejected God's truth through Jeremiah. And what the leaders didn't realize is that Micah's prophecy was still in force.

It wasn't just for his day, but for their day as well.

The judgment Hezekiah escaped would come about later. The Jews in Jeremiah's day tasted the full brunt of what Micah had predicted. In 586 BC, at the hands of the Babylonian army, "*Zion was plowed*" under like a field, and Jerusalem was turned into a "*heap of ruins.*"

The judgments of Micah were ultimately fulfilled. As it turns out *the Prophet Micah wasn't drooling after all*.