

Micah 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. Divine judgment on false prophets is spiritual darkness and silence. **לֹכֶן לִילָה לְכֶם מִחְזוֹן** (lakhen laylah lakhem me-chazon, "Therefore night unto you from vision") announces withdrawal of prophetic revelation. **מִחְזוֹן** (chazon) refers to prophetic vision—God will stop speaking to them. **וְחַשְׁקָה לְכֶם מִקְסָם** (ve-chashkhah lakhem mi-qesom, "and darkness unto you from divining") repeats the judgment. **מֵשֶׁם** (qesem) is divination, often associated with pagan practices but here referring to their prophetic activity.

The imagery intensifies: **וְבָאָה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ עַל-הַנְּבִיאִים וּקְדַר עַלְيָהֶם הַיּוֹם** (u-va'ah ha-shemesh al-ha-nevi'im ve-qadar aleihem ha-yom, "and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them"). Sun setting and day darkening depicts total loss of prophetic illumination. Amos threatened similar judgment: "I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day" (Amos 8:9). This isn't mere cessation of ministry but public exposure—their prophetic pretense will be stripped away.

The punishment fits the crime: they claimed to speak for God while speaking for profit. Now God will actually withdraw revelation, exposing their emptiness.

They'll have nothing to say because they never had God's word in the first place. This terrifying judgment warns against presuming to speak for God without divine authorization.

Historical Context

Prophetic ministry in Israel required divine calling and authorization. True prophets received God's word through visions, dreams, and direct revelation (Numbers 12:6; 1 Samuel 3:1, 21). False prophets manufactured messages or spoke from their own imagination (Jeremiah 23:16, 25-32; Ezekiel 13:2-3). God's threatened withdrawal of revelation fulfilled dramatically during the intertestamental period (the 400 "silent years" between Malachi and John the Baptist). After Malachi, no canonical prophets arose until John, fulfilling warnings like Amos 8:11-12: "Behold, the days come...that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread...but of hearing the words of the LORD." For those who reject God's word, He eventually stops speaking—the most terrible judgment imaginable.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for God to withdraw revelation—how is spiritual darkness the ultimate prophetic judgment?
2. How can we test whether contemporary prophetic claims come from God or human imagination/manipulation?
3. What should we learn from God's willingness to impose spiritual famine on those who abuse prophetic ministry?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה	לְכָם	מִפְרָץ	וְלֹא
H3651	H0	shall be unto you that ye shall not have a vision	H2377
Therefore night			
H3915			
וְלֹא	מִלְחָסָם	אָהָרָן	וְלֹא
	unto you that ye shall not divine	shall go down	
	H0	H7080	H935
and it shall be dark			
H2821			
עַל	בְּשָׁמֶשׁ	בְּנֵבִיא	עַלְיָהָם
H5921	H5030	H6937	H3117
and the sun	over the prophets	shall be dark	and the day
H8121		H5921	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:10 (Prophecy): For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

Isaiah 59:10 (Parallel theme): We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.