

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. לַיְלָה לָכֶם מִחֲזוֹן (lakhen laylah lakhem me-chazon, "Therefore night unto you from vision") announces withdrawal of prophetic revelation. חֲזוֹן (chazon) refers to prophetic vision—God will stop speaking to them. וְחֹשֶׁכָּה לָכֶם מִקְסֹם (ve-chashkhah lakhem mi-qesom, "and darkness unto you from divining") repeats the judgment. קֶסֶם (qesem) is divination, often associated with pagan practices but here referring to their prophetic activity.

The imagery intensifies: וּבָאָה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ עַל־הַנְּבִיאִים וְקָדַר עֲלֵיהֶם 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

לְכֹל H3651	לַיְלָה H3915	לְכֶם H0	מִחֲזוֹן H2377	
	Therefore night		shall be unto you that ye shall not have a vision	
וְהָיָה H2821	וְהָיָה H0	לְכֶם H7080	מִקֶּסֶם H935	וְיָאָה
and it shall be dark		unto you that ye shall not divine	shall go down	
וְהָיָה H8121	עַל H5921	הַנְּבִיאִים H5030	וְהָיָה H6937	עַלֵּיהֶם H5921
and the sun		over the prophets	shall be dark	and the day

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.