

# Micah 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

## Analysis

**But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.** In stunning contrast to false prophets, Micah declares authentic prophetic authority. **וְאֵלָם אֲנֹכִי מְלֵאֲתִי כֹחַ אֶת־רוּחַ יְהוָה** (ve-ulam anokhi maleti choach et-ruach YHWH, "But truly I am filled with power, the Spirit of the LORD") uses **אֵלָם** (ulam, "but, however") to contrast sharply with false prophets. **מְלֵא** (male) means filled or full—not partially equipped but completely empowered. **כֹּחַ** (koach) is power, strength, or ability. **רוּחַ יְהוָה** (ruach YHWH, "Spirit of the LORD") is the divine Spirit who empowers prophets.

Micah adds **וּמִשְׁפָּט וְגִבּוּרָה** (u-mishpat u-gevurah, "and judgment and might"). **מִשְׁפָּט** (mishpat) is justice, judgment, discernment—ability to distinguish right from wrong. **גִּבּוּרָה** (gevurah) is might, strength, courage—boldness to speak truth regardless of opposition. The purpose: **לְהַגִּיד לַיַּעֲקֹב וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל חַטָּאתוֹ** (le-haggid le-Ya'akov pisho u-le-Yisrael chatato, "to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin"). **פֶּשַׁע** (pesha) is transgression or rebellion; **חַטָּאת** (chatat) is sin or offense.

True prophecy confronts sin, powered by God's Spirit. False prophets proclaim peace for profit; true prophets declare judgment despite persecution. This parallels New Testament teaching: true preaching is Spirit-empowered (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5) and confronts sin (2 Timothy 4:2). Micah's

self-description establishes his authority and contrasts with mercenary prophets who lack divine empowerment.

## Historical Context

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Micah's claim to be filled with the Spirit distinguishes him from false prophets who spoke from imagination (Jeremiah 23:16). Old Testament prophets were uniquely Spirit-empowered for their task (Numbers 11:25; 1 Samuel 10:6; 2 Kings 2:9). This same Spirit would be poured out on all believers in the New Covenant (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-18). Micah's courage to confront national sin despite opposition exemplifies Spirit-empowered ministry. His contemporary Jeremiah would face similar hostility (Jeremiah 1:17-19, 20:1-2, 26:8-11), as would Jesus (Luke 4:28-29) and the apostles (Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18). Spirit-filled proclamation provokes opposition but cannot be silenced. The same Spirit who empowered Micah empowers gospel ministers today.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to be 'filled with power by the Spirit of the LORD' in ministry—how is this distinct from human talent or technique?
2. How does combining judgment (discernment) with might (courage) equip faithful proclamation of God's word?
3. Why is declaring sin essential to true prophetic ministry rather than merely encouraging or comforting?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּאֵלֶּיךָ יְהוָה	אֶת כֹּחַ	מִלִּי אֵתִי	אָנֹכִי י	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	יְהוָה
But truly	of power	I am full	by the spirit	of the LORD	
H199	H3581	H4390	H7307	H3068	
וּמִשְׁפָּט	וּגְבוּרָה	לְהַגִּיד	לְיַעֲקֹב	פְּשָׁעוֹ	
and of judgment	and of might	to declare	unto Jacob	his transgression	
H4941	H1369	H5046	H3290	H6588	
וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל	חַטָּאתוֹ:				
and to Israel	his sin				
H3478	H2403				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 58:1** (Sin): Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

**1 Corinthians 2:4** (Spirit): And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

**Ezekiel 16:2** (Parallel theme): Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

**Job 32:18** (Spirit): For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me.

**Jeremiah 20:9** (Parallel theme): Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

**Jeremiah 1:18** (Parallel theme): For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

**Matthew 7:29** (Parallel theme): For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**Ezekiel 22:2** (Judgment): Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

**Ezekiel 3:14** (Spirit): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

**Ezekiel 43:10** (References Israel): Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

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