

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. **וְאֹלֶם אֲנִי מְלָאֶת כַּח אַתְּרוֹת יְהוָה** (ve-ulam anokhi maleti choach et-ruach YHWH, "But truly I am filled with power, the Spirit of the LORD") uses **וְאֹלֶם** (ulam, "but, however") to contrast sharply with false prophets. **מְלָא** (male) means filled or full—not partially equipped but completely empowered. **כַּח** (koach) is power, strength, or ability. **רוּחַ יְהוָה** (ruach YHWH, "Spirit of the LORD") is the divine Spirit who empowers prophets.

Micah adds **וּמִשְׁפָט וְגִבּוּרָה** (u-mishpat u-gevurah, "and judgment and might"). **מִשְׁפָט** (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 לִיעָקֹב פְּשָׁעָו וְלִיֶּשְׁرָאֵל חַטָּאתוֹ** (le-haggid le-Ya'akov pisho u-le-Yisrael chatato, "to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin"). **פְּשָׁע** (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

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

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

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

וְהִנֵּה אָתָּה מְלֹא אַתִּי אָנֹכִי וְאֹולֶּה
But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD
H199 H595 H4390 H3581 H853 H7307 H3068

וְמִשְׁפָּט וְמִגְּבוֹעַ הַלְּהֹג יָד לְיַעֲלֹב פְּשָׁע וְ
and of judgment and of might to declare unto Jacob his transgression
H4941 H1369 H5046 H3290 H6588

כַּפְתָּאָתָּה וְלִשְׁבָּא ל
and to Israel his sin
H3478 H2403

Additional Cross-References

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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