

Micah 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.

Analysis

Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee. God details covenant curses. "**Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied**" (תֹאכֵל וְלֹא תִשְׁבַּע) describes frustration—consuming food without satiation. This echoes Leviticus 26:26: "Ye shall eat, and not be satisfied." Haggai 1:6 applies it to post-exilic Jews: "Ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled." When God withdraws blessing, material abundance brings no satisfaction. Augustine observed humanity has "a God-shaped vacuum" only He can fill; seeking satisfaction elsewhere brings perpetual hunger.

"Thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee" (וְיִשְׁחַק בְּקִרְבָּךְ) ve-yeshchakha be-kirbecha)—the Hebrew yeshech is obscure, possibly meaning "emptiness," "darkness," or "shame." The sense is internal desolation—emptiness within despite external possessions. **"And thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword."** Efforts to secure possessions and rescue loved ones will fail. In siege warfare, parents couldn't protect children; wealth couldn't buy safety. Jeremiah 9:21 depicts death climbing through windows, cutting off children from streets. When judgment comes, human schemes fail.

This exposes the futility of life apart from God. Ecclesiastes explores this: "Vanity of vanities...all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Solomon tested pleasure, wealth,

wisdom, achievement—all left him empty. Only fearing God and keeping His commandments matters (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Jesus warned: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). Lasting satisfaction comes only from God.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's siege by Babylon fulfilled this prophecy literally. Lamentations 4:4-10 describes horrific famine: children begging bread, nobles scavenging garbage, mothers cannibalizing their infants. Despite eating, they weren't satisfied—food couldn't sustain life under covenant curse. Efforts to escape or protect family failed: Zedekiah tried fleeing but was captured, his sons killed before him, then his eyes gouged out (2 Kings 25:6-7). Jeremiah 38:23 warned: "Thou shalt not escape...thou shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire." Human wisdom cannot circumvent divine judgment. Only repentance averts wrath.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you "eat but not be satisfied"—pursuing things that cannot ultimately fulfill the soul?
2. How does recognizing that satisfaction comes only from God reorder your priorities and pursuits?
3. What are you trying to "take hold" of (secure, protect, achieve) through human effort that only God can provide or preserve?

Interlinear Text

וַיְשַׁחַט בְּעֵד תְּאַכֵּל אֶת־הַדָּבָר
H859 Thou shalt eat H3808 but not be satisfied and thy casting down
H398

בְּמִצְרָא בְּעֵד תְּאַכֵּל אֶת־הַדָּבָר
shall be in the midst of thee and thou shalt take hold H3808
H7130 H5253

תְּמִלְאָה תְּמִלְאָה תְּמִלְאָה תְּמִלְאָה
and that which thou deliverest H834 and that which thou deliverest to the sword
H6403 H6403 H2719

אֶת־הַדָּבָר
will I give up
H5414

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 4:10 (Parallel theme): For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

Isaiah 65:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

Leviticus 26:26 (Parallel theme): And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

Haggai 1:6 (Parallel theme): Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

