

Micah 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people.

Analysis

For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels. God identifies the root cause: emulating wicked kings. **"The statutes of Omri"** (חֻקֹּת עֲמֹרִי, chukkot Omri) refers to policies established by King Omri (885-874 BC), who "wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him" (1 Kings 16:25). His son Ahab married Jezebel, importing Baal worship and murdering Naboth for his vineyard (1 Kings 21). **"The works of the house of Ahab"** (מַעֲשֵׂה בֵּית־אֶחָזָב, ma'aseh beit-Ach'av) include idolatry, injustice, and violence. Judah adopted Northern Kingdom's apostasy.

"Ye walk in their counsels" (וַתֵּלְכוּ בְּמוֹעֲצוֹתָם, vattelkhu be-mo'atzotam)—counsel (mo'etzah) means advice, plan, policy. Judah imitated Omri and Ahab's wicked leadership. Psalm 1:1 pronounces blessing on those who don't "walk in the counsel of the ungodly." Conversely, adopting evil counsel brings curse. **"That I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people."** The result: Judah becomes a byword, object of scorn among nations. Sheremah (desolation) and sherekah (hissing/mocking) describe shameful ruin.

Why such severe judgment? Because imitating wicked leadership compounds apostasy. Leaders set cultural norms; when kings promoted Baal worship and

economic injustice, society followed. Today, Christians face similar temptation: adopting worldly values, following ungodly influencers, prioritizing cultural acceptance over biblical fidelity. Second Corinthians 6:14-17 commands: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." Believers must resist conformity to wicked counsel, regardless of cultural pressure.

Historical Context

Omri established Samaria as Israel's capital, creating a power center for apostasy. Ahab's marriage to Jezebel brought institutionalized Baal worship (1 Kings 16:31-33). Their influence persisted generations: 2 Kings 8:18 says Judah's King Jehoram "walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab" because he married Ahab's daughter Athaliah. She later seized Judah's throne, attempting to exterminate David's line (2 Kings 11:1-3). Omri and Ahab's legacy poisoned both kingdoms. Micah warned Judah not to follow this path, but they ignored him. Jesus similarly warned: "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees" (Matthew 16:6)—false teaching spreads, corrupting entire communities. Vigilance against ungodly counsel remains imperative.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What modern "statutes of Omri" (cultural values, leadership philosophies, ethical compromises) tempt you to adopt worldly counsel rather than biblical truth?
2. How can you discern when you're "walking in the counsel of the ungodly" versus engaging culture for gospel witness?

3. What steps can you take to ensure you're following godly counsel (from Scripture, mature believers, Spirit's leading) rather than conforming to worldly wisdom?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁתַּמְּרוּ are kept H8104	חֻקֵּי וְתוֹת For the statutes H2708	עֹמְרֵי י of Omri H6018	וְכָל H3605	מַעֲשֵׂה ה and all the works H4639	בֵּית of the house H1004
אֶחָד ב of Ahab H256	וַתֵּלֶכְ ו H1980	בְּמַעֲצוֹתָם in their counsels H4156	לְמַעַן H4616	תֵּתֵנִי י that I should make H5414	אֶתְּךָ H853
לְשֹׁמֵה ה thee a desolation H8047	וְיֹשְׁבֵי יָהּ and the inhabitants H3427	לְשִׁרְקָהּ ה thereof an hissing H8322	וְחִרְפָּתָהּ the reproach H2781	עַמִּי י of my people H5971	
תִּשְׂאוּ: therefore ye shall bear H5375					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:51 (Parallel theme): We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house.

Jeremiah 7:24 (Parallel theme): But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Isaiah 25:8 (Parallel theme): He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Psalms 44:13 (Parallel theme): Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us.

Jeremiah 19:8 (Sin): And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.

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