

Micah 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Analysis

The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. Micah's lament intensifies. **אָבַד חֲסִיד מִן־הָאָרֶץ** (avad chasid min-ha'arets, "the godly/faithful person has perished from the earth"). **חֲסִיד** (chasid) is one who practices **חֶסֶד** (chesed)—covenant loyalty, steadfast love, mercy. Such people have vanished. **וְיָשָׁר בְּאָדָם אֵין** (ve-yashar ba'adam ayin, "and upright among men there is none"). **יָשָׁר** (yashar) means straight, upright, righteous. Universal moral failure pervades.

אָרְבּ כֻלָּם לְדַמִּים יַעֲרְבוּ (kullam le-damim ye'erovu, "all of them lie in wait for blood"). **אָרְבּ** (arav) means to lie in ambush or wait in hiding. Society has become predatory—everyone hunts others. **אִישׁ אֶת־אָחִיּוֹ יַצִּדּוּ חֶרֶם** (ish et-achihu yatsudu cherem, "each man hunts his brother with a net"). **צִד** (tsud) means to hunt or trap; **חֶרֶם** (cherem) is a net. Even brothers hunt each other—family bonds dissolve into mutual exploitation.

This describes total social breakdown. When covenant loyalty (chesed) vanishes and uprightness (yashar) disappears, society becomes a Hobbesian war of all against all. Trust evaporates, relationships weaponize, community disintegrates. Jesus later described similar end-times conditions: "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). When love grows cold, predation increases.

Historical Context

Micah witnessed Judah's moral disintegration during the late 8th century BC. Corruption pervaded leadership (3:1-3, 9-11), false prophets proliferated (3:5-7), economic exploitation intensified (2:1-2). The social contract collapsed—those who should protect became predators. Similar conditions preceded other divine judgments: pre-flood violence (Genesis 6:11-13), Sodom's wickedness (Genesis 18:20-21), pre-exilic Judah's corruption (Jeremiah 5:26-29; Ezekiel 22:23-31). Paul's description of end-times apostasy echoes Micah: "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud...without natural affection...fierce, despisers of those that are good" (2 Timothy 3:2-3). When societies abandon God's law, they descend into predatory chaos where everyone hunts everyone else.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What causes societies to transition from covenant community to predatory competition?
2. How do believers maintain integrity and chesed (loyal love) when surrounded by exploitation and betrayal?
3. What does it mean that 'the good man has perished from the earth'—is this hyperbole or reality in certain contexts?

Interlinear Text

אֶבֶד דַּ	הַטֹּיִם	מִן	הָאֶרֶץ	וְיֵשׁ רֵ	
man is perished	The good	H4480	out of the earth	and there is none upright	
H6	H2623		H776	H3477	
בְּאֶתְּ	אֵין	כָּלֵם	לְדַמִּים	יֵאָרְבוּ	אֵת יֵשׁ
among men	H369	H3605	for blood	they all lie in wait	every man
H120			H1818	H693	H853
אֶתְּ יְהוֹ	יֵצְאוּ	חֲקֹם:			
his brother	they hunt	with a net			
H251	H6679	H2764			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 12:1 (Parallel theme): Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

Isaiah 57:1 (Parallel theme): The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

Isaiah 59:7 (Blood): Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

Jeremiah 5:26 (Parallel theme): For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

Proverbs 1:11 (Blood): If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Jeremiah 16:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

1 Samuel 24:11 (Parallel theme): Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

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