

# Micah 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

## Analysis

**The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.** Even society's best members cause harm. **טוֹבָם כְּחֵדֶק** (tovam khechedeq, "their best is like a brier"). **חֵדֶק** (chedeq) is a thorny plant that tears and scratches. The best people aren't helpful but harmful. **יָשָׁר מִמְּסוּכָה** (yashar mimesukah, "the upright more than a thorn hedge"). **מְסוּכָה** (mesukah) is a thorn hedge—dense, impenetrable, painful. Even the relatively upright cause more damage than protection.

**יוֹם מִצַּפְיֶיךָ פִּקְדוֹתֶיךָ בָּאָה** (yom metsapekha peqddatek ba'ah, "the day of your watchmen, your visitation has come"). **מִצַּפֵּה** (metsapeh) are watchmen or prophets who warned of coming judgment. **פִּקְדָּה** (peqddah) is visitation—often divine intervention in judgment. The watchmen's warnings now become reality. **עַתָּה תִּהְיֶה מְבוֹכָתָם** (attah tiyeh mevukhatam, "now shall be their perplexity"). **מְבוֹכָה** (mevukah) is confusion, bewilderment, or panic. Judgment brings disorienting chaos.

This devastating assessment means even moral society cannot help—the best members harm rather than heal. When society's finest are like thorns, total corruption exists. The announced visitation is divine judgment—what prophets warned about now arrives. Perplexity describes the shocked confusion of those who presumed safety but face destruction.

## Historical Context

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Micah and other prophets (Isaiah, Amos, Hosea) functioned as watchmen, warning Judah of coming judgment (Ezekiel 3:17-21, 33:1-9). Their prophecies announced Assyrian and Babylonian invasions as divine visitation for covenant violation. When judgment came, those who ignored warnings experienced panicked confusion—"How could this happen? Where is God's protection?" (Lamentations 1:1-9). The principle applies universally: societies that corrupt even their best members face inevitable judgment. When moral leadership becomes part of the problem rather than solution, collapse is certain. Only God's intervention—whether judgment or revival—can address such comprehensive corruption.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean when society's 'best' members cause harm—how does this indicate total corruption?
2. How do watchmen (prophets, preachers) function to warn of coming visitation—what is their responsibility?
3. What characterizes the 'perplexity' of those who face judgment after ignoring warnings?

## Interlinear Text

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טוֹב ׀	כִּי דָק	יָשׁוּר	מִמְסוֹךְ הַ
The best	of them is as a brier	the most upright	is sharper than a thorn hedge
H2896	H2312	H3477	H4534

י ׀	מִצֵּפַי יָבֹ	פְּקֻדֹתֶיךָ	בְּ אֵה	עַתָּה הַ	תְּהִי הַ
the day	of thy watchmen	and thy visitation	cometh		
H3117	H6822	H6486	H935	H6258	H1961

מְבוֹכָתָם:

now shall be their perplexity

H3998

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 22:5** (Parallel theme): For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

**Ezekiel 2:6** (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

**Isaiah 10:3** (Parallel theme): And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?