

Micah 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

Analysis

For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. Family structures collapse completely. **כִּי־בָן מִנְבָּל אָב** (ki-ven menabbel av, "for the son dishonors the father"). **מִנְבָּל** (naval) means to treat with contempt, disgrace, or dishonor—violating the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12). **בַּת קָמָה בְּאִמְתָּה** (bat qamah ve-immah, "daughter rises up against her mother"). **קָם** (qum) means to rise up in rebellion or opposition. **כָּלָה בְּחִמְתָּה** (kallah ba-chamotah, "daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"). Even extended family relationships fracture.

The devastating conclusion: **אֹיֵב אִישׁ אֹנְשֵׁי בֵּיתוֹ** (oyevei ish anshei veito, "a man's enemies are the men of his own household"). **אֹיֵב** (oyev) means enemy, adversary, or foe. Those who should be closest allies—household members—become hostile enemies. This represents total social disintegration. When family bonds dissolve, society's basic building block crumbles. No relationship remains trustworthy; no refuge provides safety.

Jesus quoted this verse when describing the cost of discipleship and opposition He would bring (Matthew 10:35-36; Luke 12:53). The gospel divides families when some believe and others reject Christ. But Micah describes a different scenario—comprehensive moral collapse where rebellion and betrayal characterize all

relationships. In both contexts, the principle holds: ultimate loyalty must be to God, not human relationships (Matthew 10:37).

Historical Context

Micah describes family breakdown resulting from moral corruption and social collapse. When justice fails, economy falters, and trust evaporates, families fragment under pressure. Historical parallels include periods of persecution (families divided over faith), civil wars (relatives on opposing sides), totalitarian regimes (children informing on parents), and cultural revolutions (youth rejecting elders). The fifth commandment—honoring father and mother—is foundational to social stability (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3). When this breaks down, civilization crumbles. Jesus's quotation of this verse shows the gospel's divisive effect—not because Christianity promotes family breakdown, but because truth demands allegiance that transcends human relationships when they conflict with divine allegiance.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does family breakdown serve as indicator of broader social and moral collapse?
2. What does Jesus's quotation of this verse teach about the potential cost of following Him?
3. How do believers navigate family conflict while honoring both the fifth commandment and supreme loyalty to Christ?

Interlinear Text

בָּנֶה	בָּתָה	אָבָה	מִנְבָּגָל	בָּנִי
H3588 For the son	dishonoureth	the father	the daughter	riseth up
H1121	H5034	H1	H1323	H6965
בְּאָפָּה	כָּלָה	בְּחִמְתָּה	אִיבָּרִים	אִישׁ
against her mother	the daughter in law	against her mother in law	enemies	a man's
H517	H3618	H2545	H341	H376
בִּיתָהוּ	אֲבָשִׁים			
are the men	of his own house			
H582	H1004			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:53 (Word): The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Matthew 10:21 (Resurrection): And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Psalms 41:9 (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Ezekiel 22:7 (Parallel theme): In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.

Proverbs 30:11 (Parallel theme): There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

John 13:18 (Word): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Luke 21:16 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

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