

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast mountain range under a cloudy sky. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants, and is holding a walking stick. The word "MICAH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the center of the image, enclosed in a white rectangular frame. Below the word "MICAH" is the text "SEEK JUSTICE • LOVE MERCY • WALK HUMBL Y" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# MICAH

SEEK JUSTICE • LOVE MERCY • WALK HUMBL Y

# THE INDICTMENT

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants, and is holding a walking stick. The background shows multiple layers of mountain ranges, creating a sense of depth. The sky is overcast with soft clouds. The overall tone is contemplative and majestic.

MICAH

THE STAR WITNESS IS:

GOD

MICAH

# THE INDICTMENT

- SHALLOW FAITH/LIP SERVICE
- GOD'S WORD REJECTED
- CORRUPT LEADERS
- FALSE PROPHETS
- GREED/MATERIALISM
- MORAL COLLAPSE

MICAH

# LIP SERVICE

<sup>2</sup> Listen, all you peoples; pay attention, earth and everyone in it! **The Lord God will be a witness against you, the Lord, from his holy temple.**

<sup>3</sup> **Look, the Lord is leaving his place** and coming down to trample the heights of the earth. <sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt beneath him, and the valleys will split apart, like wax near a fire, like water cascading down a mountainside.

# LIP SERVICE

<sup>5</sup> All this will happen because of Jacob's rebellion and the sins of the house of Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Isn't it Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Isn't it Jerusalem?

# GOD'S WORD REJECTED

<sup>6</sup> **“Quit your preaching,” they preach. “They should not preach these things; shame will not overtake us.”** <sup>7</sup> House of Jacob, should it be asked, “Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these the things he does?” Don’t my words bring good to the one who walks uprightly? <sup>8</sup> But recently my people have risen up like an enemy: You strip off the splendid robe from those who are passing through confidently, like those returning from war...

# CORRUPT LEADERS

Then I said, “Now listen, leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. **Aren’t you supposed to know what is just?** <sup>2</sup> **You hate good and love evil.** You tear off people’s skin and strip their flesh from their bones. <sup>3</sup> You eat the flesh of my people after you strip their skin from them and break their bones. You chop them up like flesh for the cooking pot, like meat in a cauldron.”



# CORRUPT LEADERS

<sup>9</sup> Listen to this, leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, **who abhor justice and pervert everything that is right,** <sup>10</sup> who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with injustice.

<sup>11</sup> Her leaders issue rulings for a bribe, her priests teach for payment, and her prophets practice divination for silver. Yet they lean on the Lord, saying, "Isn't the Lord among us? No disaster will overtake us."

# FALSE PROPHETS

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is holding a walking stick. The background is a soft, misty landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky.

<sup>11</sup> If a man comes and utters empty lies — “I will preach to you about wine and beer” — he would be just the preacher for this people!

MICAH 2

<sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord says concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who proclaim peace when they have food to sink their teeth into but declare war against the one who puts nothing in their mouths.

MICAH 3

MICAH

# GREED/MATERIALISM

Woe to those who dream up wickedness and prepare evil plans on their beds! At morning light they accomplish it because the power is in their hands. <sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them; they also take houses. They deprive a man of his home, a person of his inheritance.

# GREED/MATERIALISM

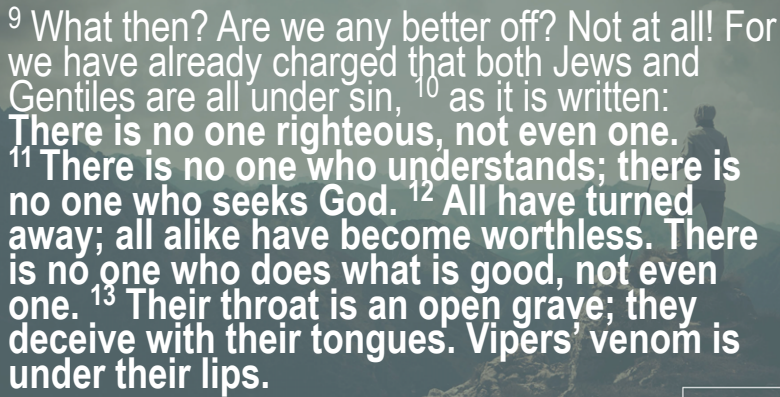
<sup>10</sup> Are there still the treasures of wickedness and the accursed short measure in the house of the wicked? <sup>11</sup> Can I excuse wicked scales or bags of deceptive weights? <sup>12</sup> For the wealthy of the city are full of violence, and its residents speak lies; the tongues in their mouths are deceitful.

# MORAL COLLAPSE

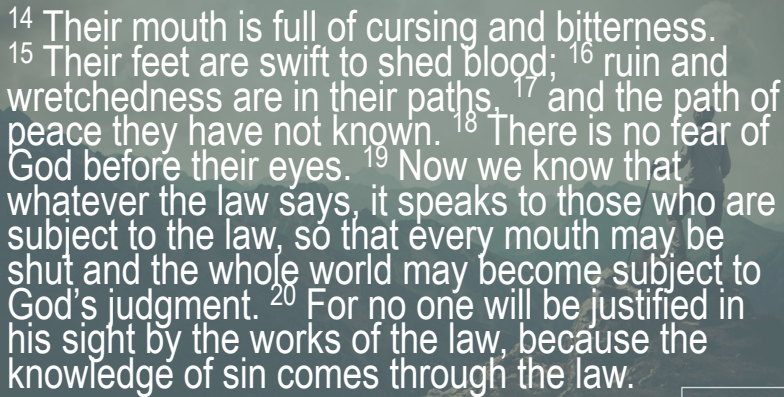
How sad for me! For I am like one who — when the summer fruit has been gathered after the gleaning of the grape harvest — finds no grape cluster to eat, no early fig, which I crave.<sup>2</sup> Faithful people have vanished from the land; there is no one upright among the people. All of them wait in ambush to shed blood; they hunt each other with a net.

# MORAL COLLAPSE

<sup>3</sup> Both hands are good at accomplishing evil: the official and the judge demand a bribe; when the powerful man communicates his evil desire, they plot it together. <sup>4</sup> The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is worse than a hedge of thorns...

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast valley. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a hat, and is holding a walking stick. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we any better off? Not at all! For we have already charged that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin, <sup>10</sup> as it is written: **There is no one righteous, not even one.** <sup>11</sup> **There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.** <sup>12</sup> **All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.** <sup>13</sup> **Their throat is an open grave; they deceive with their tongues. Vipers' venom is under their lips.**



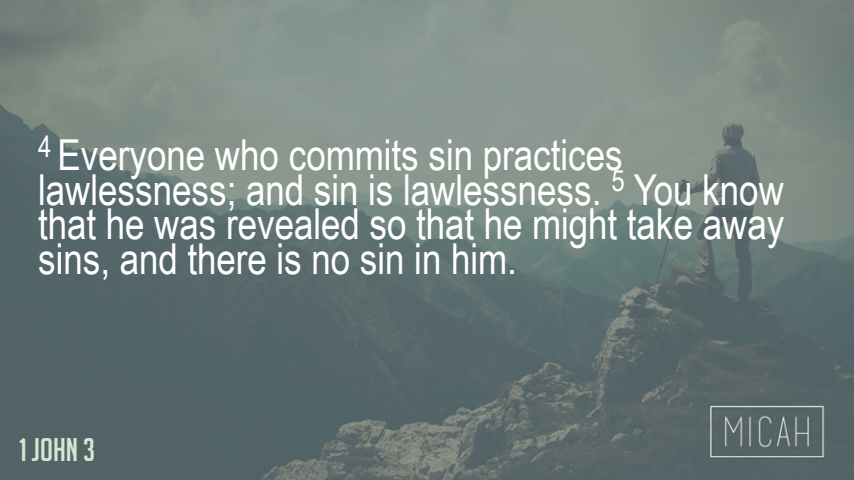
<sup>14</sup> Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.  
<sup>15</sup> Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> ruin and  
wretchedness are in their paths, <sup>17</sup> and the path of  
peace they have not known. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear of  
God before their eyes. <sup>19</sup> Now we know that  
whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are  
subject to the law, so that every mouth may be  
shut and the whole world may become subject to  
God's judgment. <sup>20</sup> For no one will be justified in  
his sight by the works of the law, because the  
knowledge of sin comes through the law.



# WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS?

- GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING WE DO
- GOD TAKES OUR SIN SERIOUSLY
- SIN, LEFT UNCHECKED IN OUR LIVES, WILL LEAVE US BROKEN AND USELESS TO GOD

MICAH

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. The person is wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants, and is holding a walking stick. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall tone is contemplative and serene.

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him.

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