

# ***The Purposes of Powerful Leaders***

## ***International Bible Lesson***

### **Micah 3:1-12**

**Sunday, July 12, 2015**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin”*  
(Micah 3:8—KJV).

*“But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin”* (Micah 3:8—NRSV).

The Bible describes two different types of leaders. One type promotes whatever those who pay them want to hear or want said for their benefit. When they “have something to eat,” these leaders cry “Peace.” If they do not get what they want, they “declare war against those who put nothing in their mouths” (Micah 3:5). Micah specified their selfishness: “Priests teach for a price” and “Prophets give oracles for money” (Micah 3:11). To punish them, God declared, “the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame” (Micah 3:7). Though corrupt religious leaders claimed that God was with them, so no harm would come to them, they refused to receive God’s revelation through His true prophets; therefore, they suffered disgrace and death when Jerusalem became a heap of ruins as Micah foretold. Amos and Micah fit into the other type of spiritual leaders. God filled them with His power and Spirit. God spoke through them, and with a mighty voice they denounced unjust leaders in both the political and religious arenas. Those who sought to obey God discerned rightly when God was speaking through His true prophets. Rather than conform their words to the desires of those who could kill them, God’s true prophets courageously denounced the specific sins of those who abhorred justice and perverted the fair treatment of others that God’s law demanded. God promised to be with those who declared and believed the truth. Only those who trusted in the LORD and His true prophets passed through Jerusalem’s destruction with God’s presence and help.— L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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## Thinking Further

1. When did some of the prophets cry “Peace,” and who did they declare war against?
2. What did God say His judgment would be upon these false prophets?
3. How did Micah describe himself in contrast to the false prophets?
4. What do some people abhor, and who did Micah accuse of perverting all equity?
5. Who does Micah accuse of doing all they do for money, and what do these people say about the LORD?