

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 2 Micah C 2-3

Chapter 2 Prophet's second message describes specific sins

While Micah prophesies of certain destruction, Judah enjoys a period of prosperity, and the wealthy indulge themselves further by oppressing the poor.

Read Micah 2:1-2 Covetousness among God's people.

V 1 They spend their time in bed plotting and planning to do evil the next day.

V 2 Covetousness, violence, and oppression are the sins of Samaria, as well as Jerusalem.

Read Micah 2: 3-6 God's proud people brought low.

V 3-6 The Lord responds by stating that He, too, is plotting evil. Really, He is plotting what seems to be evil since it is against the evil doers.

Verse 5 may be translated as "others will set your boundaries then" or "the people of the Lord will live where they are sent." Verse 6 seems to be false prophets speaking to Micah. False prophets didn't speak about the need for repentance. Because of her idolatry, Israel would no longer have special insights into God's direction.

Read Micah 2:7-9 God's people reject the word of His prophets.

V 7 God's word will be received by His people who obey Him, and it will be rejected when they do not obey.

V 8 They oppress the poor. They stir up God's wrath by robbing peaceable travelers, widows, and orphans.

V 9 They have problems of the slums.

Psalm 68:5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. (RSV)

Read Micah 2:10-11 God's people embrace false prophets.

V 10-11 The words of false prophets are defiled, and bring utter destruction instead of the peace, rest, and restoration of God's Word.

Read Micah 2:12-13 Promise of Restoration

V 12-13 The Lord will ultimately regather the remnant. These verses allude to the coming Messiah who will lead them out of their captivity.

Read John 10:7-11

Chapter 3 Prophet's third message denounces leaders for sins

In this chapter, Micah is very bold in reproving and threatening the great men that were the ringleaders in sin; and he gives the reason in verse 8 why he was so bold,

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because he had commission and instruction from God to say what he said, and was directed by a higher spirit and power than his own.

Read Micah 3:1-4 The sins of the princes

V 1-4 Micah begins this second oracle with a question. Is it not for you to know justice? Micah is talking to the leaders of the people who think that they are above the law. A leader should never serve God's people dominated by the question, "What is in it for me?" This is one example of God's judgment against the corrupt leaders.

Read Micah 3: 5-8 The sins of the false prophets

V 5-8 Micah addresses another group of leaders in Israel, the false prophets of the time. Some have interpreted the phrase as describing the harm inflicted on the people by the lying prophets, as harmful as a serpent's bite. They made it all their aim to glut themselves. Like Balaam in Numbers, the prophets of Micah's day appear to have been offering their services to the highest bidder.

V 6-7 The false prophets would chant "Peace" to those who paid them well and predict war to those who would not pay.

V 8 is a key verse because Micah is telling what his mission is: **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 contrasts his prophetic activity with that of the false prophets. He asserts that he was filled with power "with the help of the Spirit."

Read Micah 3:9-12 Sins of leaders of Jerusalem

V 9-12: The address to the leaders of the house of Jacob continues with a biting portrayal of their sins. Micah accuses them of despising justice.

Jeremiah quotes this prophecy. They threw Jeremiah in jail for his prophetic message of coming judgment. About 100 years after Micah Jeremiah's life was preserved because of Micah.

Jeremiah 26:18 Micah of Mo'resheth prophesied in the days of Hezeki'ah king of Judah, and said to all the people of Judah: 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.'

No Sunday School next Sunday. August 7, Chapters 4 and 5.