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Micah 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Micah 2.

Topics.

- Woe to the oppressors.
- Israel and Judah will be utterly ruined.
- Preach only good things.
- God's people are an enemy to God.
- Preaching for man or for God.
- An echo of the Lord Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION: Micah prophesied in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (about 750–700 B.C.), at about the same time as Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, and Micah denounced the wealthy, who were oppressing the poor, and warned of impending judgment. The Northern Kingdom actually fell during Micah's ministry, in 722, and Judah almost fell in 701 (2 Kings 18–20). The book contains three sections, which alternate between words of warning and messages of hope. Micah told of a day when there would be peace among all nations, who would then be able to beat their swords into plowshares (4:3), and of a royal deliverer who would save Israel from all her enemies. This deliverer would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

MICAH 2:1-2

Woe to the Oppressors.

- **Micah 2:1-2:** Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. ²They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

The LORD'S prophet says, "Woe to kings, rulers, governments, tax departments, banks, business boss's etc., who are arrogant and full of pride and use their power and authority to plan cunning and deceptive ways whereby they can gain even more wealth and power, for themselves, by seizing peoples farms, land, property, houses, their inheritance or by gaining riches through oppressing their workers and staff members."

MICAH 2:3-4

Israel and Judah will be Utterly Ruined.

- **Micah 2:3-4:** Therefore says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster. ⁴In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you and moan bitterly, and say, "We are utterly ruined; he changes the portion of my people; how he removes it from me! To an apostate he allots our fields."

The apostate Micah refers to is the nation of Assyria and the nation of Babylon. The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria to bring judgment on Israel in the land of

Samaria (the ten tribes) and Babylon to bring judgment on Judah (the two tribes) at Jerusalem. Many times, God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel of their impending doom but they would not listen. Assyria eventually invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive, later Babylon's armies surrounded Jerusalem and after a bitter siege of a year and a half the city fell to Nebuchadnezzar and was destroyed. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken there with him (587 B.C.).

Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

MICAH 2:5-7

Preach only Good Things.

- **Micah 2:5-7:** Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD. ⁶"Do not preach"—thus they preach—"one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us." ⁷Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?

You will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD, means they will have no-one to help them. It appears the people have been telling Micah not to preach such a negative message proclaiming disgrace will overtake Judah and Israel. The people rebuke Micah for saying such negative things and tell him he should not be preaching such a destructive message amongst God's people, they are so rebellious they even go further by telling Micah such things will never happen to them, but Micah responds by saying what he is preaching though it is very negative and full of doom will do good to those who take notice and turn from their evil way.

MICAH 2:8-9

God's people are an Enemy to God.

- **Micah 2:8-9:** But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war. ⁹The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever.

God says, his people have become his enemies for two reasons:

1. They take what little a harmless stranger who passes through their land has. God cares about how good people are treated whether they are part of His family or not.
2. They are driving out helpless women and their children from their homes. "You take away my splendour forever" (v9), is referring to the women's children that are being cast out of their homes, God's splendour in this context are the children.

MICAH 2:10-11

Preaching for Man or for God.

- **Micah 2:10-11:** Arise and go, for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction. ¹¹If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," he would be the preacher for this people!

Micah is telling the faithful of the LORD to get out of Jerusalem and the land of Samaria because transgression and sin is so great, they are destroying the people like a contagious disease. He says neither Jerusalem nor Samaria are places for God's people to dwell and that if he preaches what they want to hear, he would be a preacher for man and not for God because if a man only preaches of wine and strong drink, meaning only good things," he would be proclaiming only wind and lies, and speaking for man and not for God.

Sins of Israel: following is a list of sins that permeated the land of Judah and Jerusalem throughout their generations. These sins eventually became like a contagious virus running rampant throughout the land of Judah and Israel. They defiled God's Holy name and their own land by their lifestyle, deeds and actions. They committed gross idolatry and Baal altars were set up throughout their land. They worshipped the goddess of love and fertility (her worship was sexually indecent). Worse than this they worshipped Moloch and sacrificed their sons to him in the Hinnom valley. They worshipped a golden calf at a religious centre at Dan and at a religious centre at Bethel. Altars were set up in the temple court for planetary worship and the worship of the host of heaven (i.e., the sun, moon and stars) and worship of idols and altars had been built under shady trees on their hills throughout their land. Added to this innocent people were killed and cheated out of justice, leaders oppressed others for their own selfish gain and drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality was rampant. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor and instead of relieving their economic distress they devised new means of depriving them of their property. Is it any wonder the LORD compares Israel's ways to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity? (Ezek. 36:17) and poured out His wrath upon both Judah and Israel.

The lesson for today: by Israel's' wicked behaviour they defiled the name of God which resulted in the surrounding nations mocking and despising God. This shines a light on the following truth: the behaviour of everyone who confesses the name of God and Christ His Son will determine to some extent whether outsiders are drawn to God or to despise Him. We are not witnesses to the Lord only when we are sharing our faith with another person our entire life is a witness to our faith and of God it can be a good witness or a bad witness.

MICAH 2:12-13

An Echo of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Micah 2:12-13:** I (the LORD) will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them (Israel and Judah) together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men. ¹³He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the LORD at their head.

Breach: means to break or burst out, to grow and increase.

Micah prophetically says, God will gather a remnant of Israel together like noisy sheep in a paddock, this refers to Israel being led into captivity for seventy years in Babylon, but there will be one who goes before them and opens the gate to the paddock (the paddock being a symbol of Babylon), when this happens they will go out with triumphant rejoicing and singing. This applies to Ezra and Nehemiah (with limitations), because it was them who lead Israel back to Jerusalem in triumphant rejoicing praising God after their seventy years captivity in Babylon, but Micah is also

prophetically echoing the Lord Jesus Christ who went before Israel and Judah to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and through his death and resurrection not only opened the gate of salvation and eternal life to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and Judah, but also to the entire world. But Micah's words only pause at the cross of Calvary, they do not stop there, they cannot be restrained from taking wings and flying through time and history to arrive at their final destination which is the return of Christ in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
