

LAND GRABBERS, LYING PREACHERS & HIGHWAY ROBBERS

Sunday, October 11, 2020 — MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope series -- Msg 3 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

REVIEW:

THE PROPHECY OF MICAH -- 3 Prophecy Cycles of Judgment and Mercy

The Setting: The people of Israel are in rebellion and have sinned against God.

- 1st Cycle : Destruction and Regathering** Micah chapters 1 & 2
- The Revelation of coming judgment (1:2-16)
 - The Reasons for coming judgment (2:1-11)
 - The Regathering after judgment (2:12-13) The Good Shepherd
- 2nd Cycle: Doom and Deliverance** Micah chapters 3, 4 & 5
- Doom for leaders, false prophets, Jerusalem (3:1-12)
 - Deliverance through the coming kingdom (4:1-5:1)
 - The Deliverer (His first coming 5:2-3 and His second coming 5:4-15)
- 3rd Cycle : Denunciations and Salvation** Micah chapters 6 & 7
- God's indictments (6:1-5 and 6:9-16)
 - Israel's replies (6:6-8 and 7:1-10)
 - God's Exaltation and Salvation of His people (7:11-20)

NOTICE: In every cycle GOD'S MERCY PREVAILS through and over His judgment of His true people.

CHAPTER 2 The REASONS for the COMING JUDGMENT

- 1 *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.*
- 2 *They covet fields and seize them,
and houses, and take them away;
they oppress a man and his house,
a man and his inheritance.*
- 3 *Therefore thus 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**.*
- 4 *In 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."*
- 5 *Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot
in the **assembly** of the LORD.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

Isaiah blasts corrupt politics in the capital,
Micah blasts the social wrongs in his province.

In the Minor Prophets we see God's hatred of
social injustice and crime.

Many Mosaic laws were designed to protect
the poor and powerless.

Here we see law twisting resulting
in **land grabbing** oppression of the weak.

- it is premeditated vs 1
- it is brazen and shameless vs 1
- it is ruthless and merciless vs 2
- it is illegal vs 2 Lev. 25; Num 27; 1Kng 21

God will judge the whole nation of Israel by
sending the godless Assyrians and Babylonians
to crush and humble them. vs 3-4

A remnant will remain. vs 5

- 6 *“Do not preach”—thus they preach—
“one should not preach of such things;
disgrace will not overtake us.”*
- 7 *Should 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?*
- 8 *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.*
- 9 *The women of my people you drive out
from their delightful houses;
from their young children you take away
my splendor forever.*
- 10 *Arise and go,
for this is no place to rest,
because of uncleanness that destroys
with a grievous destruction.*
- 11 *If 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!*
- 12 *I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob;
I will gather the remnant of Israel;
I will set them together
like sheep in a fold,
like a flock in its pasture,
a noisy multitude of men.*
- 13 *He 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.*

NINE KEY APPLICATIONS:

- 1) Just because you don't see judgment coming doesn't mean that it isn't.
- 2) Just because certain people may seem insignificant to you doesn't mean they are insignificant God.
- 3) How you treat 'insignificant people' will directly affect how God treats you.
- 4) Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
- 5) Just because something is legal doesn't mean that it is right.
- 6) Just because something is illegal doesn't mean that it is wrong.
- 7) Only God is the arbiter of right and wrong. Not you, not anyone else.
- 8) False preachers are everywhere. Be very, very careful.
- 9) Remaining in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to rest & blessing.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

Vs. 6-7 Wicked, lying preachers have always existed!

- They minimize sin and judgment. vs 6
- They cater to selfish desires.
- They utter nonsense and lies. vs 11
- They are like drunkards.

Vs. 8 & 9 expands vs. 2

- Like an enemy within!
- treacherous highway robbers
- destroy the sweetly vulnerable
- ravage the innocent, joyful, trusting

Vs 10 GET OUT! Off to exile you go.

- your disgusting disease of sin
- think 'flesh-destroying leprosy '

Vs 11 (above) Lying, foolish preachers

Vs 12 & 13

All of the remnant will be gathered.

- The Good Shepherd will bring them in.
- The Savior-King leads them out.

PSALM 24 -- The Savior King

- 7 *Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*
- 8 *Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!*
- 9 *Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*
- 10 *Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory! Selah*