

## A Serious Situation—Micah 1:1-2:13

- **Intro:**
  - Micah = a lot of strong rebuke and correction and then a glorious message of redemption and hope!
  - Micah is calling a people who have begun to mock God/pretend to be God to recognize God's power and holiness and repent.
  - This text highlights God's holiness, the seriousness of our sin and the amazing beauty of the gospel!
- **Take God's Word Seriously (1:1)**
  - God builds, molds and changes us by HIS WORD
  - He speaks and demands that we LISTEN—not merely hearing but active and responsive listening.
  - 1 Timothy—ALL SCRIPTURE is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, admonition, rebuke, correction, etc.
  - What follows is SERIOUS—Micah summons the ENTIRE earth to hear this message.
    - God is not a TRIBAL deity—he is God of all and he stands in judgment over all!
- **Take God's Holiness Seriously (1:2-2:11)**
  - God's holiness—the total “otherness” of God—perfectly holy, righteous!
  - **v.2—in his HOLY temple**
    - Think Isaiah 6—Isaiah sees God in his HOLY temple and then falls down before him and cries, “woe is me. I am a man of unclean lips.”
  - To the wicked—this is meant to produce great fear
  - To the oppressed—this is meant to produce great hope and joy of a completely HOLY God who stands in defense.
  - Is God angry? Yes!
    - But his anger is holy and righteous indignation toward sin—if his is not angry toward sin he is not God!
    - Merry Christmas! But actually, this is why we need Christmas! The curse of sin covers the earth and leaves it in total desperation for a Savior.
  - Why such a serious conversation on this? Why all the talk about wrath and judgement?
    - Because God loves you! He is sending you a message of serious holiness and the call to repentance!
    - You say, “I don't want wrath?” That is wise...run to Jesus!
  - **God's holy judgement (v.5-16)**
    - God's judgement destroys and exiles the people.
      - **v.6—I will make Samaria a heap...**
      - **v.7—all her high places will be beaten to pieces...**
      - **v.9—her wound is incurable**
        - This is why he is wailing and mourning! He is not gloating in the sin but mourning it!
    - **v.10-16**—a laundry list of coming judgment on these cities! They make think they are safe but they are NOT!
      - Micah is actually playing on the names of the cities by using similar words of destruction:
        - Don't gossip about this in Telltown. Don't waste your tears. In Dustville, roll in the dust. In Alarmtown, the alarm is sounded. The citizens of Exitburgh will never get out alive. Lament, Last-Stand City: There's nothing in you left standing. The villagers of Bittertown wait in vain for sweet peace. Harsh judgment has come from God and

entered Peace City. All you who live in Chariotville, get in your chariots for flight. You led the daughter of Zion into trusting not God but chariots. Similar sins in Israel also got their start in you. Go ahead and give your good-bye gifts to Good-byeville. Miragetown beckoned but disappointed Israel's kings. Inheritance City has lost its inheritance. Glorytown has seen its last of glory.

- v.16—God's holiness in light of sin ought cause us grief and mourning
  - We don't gloat in sin...we mourn it.
  - "EXILE"—this was Micah's last word to them and was the worst word to them!
    - Exile = a shadow/picture of hell—the reality of separation from God!
  - Tim Keller—If you don't understand or believe in the wrath of God, the gospel will not thrill, empower or move you.
- As we consider God's wrath we remember God's mercy—the wrath directed elsewhere!
  - The NT repetitively talks about Jesus as the one who APPEASES God's wrath!
- Take Our Sin Seriously (1:2-2:11)
  - 2:5—all this comes about because of SIN!
    - Ultimately, all sin is against GOD!
    - Piper—the glory of God not honored, the holiness of God not revered, the greatness of God not admired, the power of God not praised, the truth of God not sought, the wisdom of God no esteemed, the beauty of God not treasured, the goodness of God not savored, the faithfulness of god not trusted, the commandments of god not obeyed, the justice of God not respected, the wrath of God not feared, the grace of God not cherished, the presence of God not prized, the person of God not loved!
  - 2 Particular Sins: (repeated throughout Micah and the minor prophets)
    - A failure to love God and to love neighbor! It all boils down to this!
    - 2 Kings 16-17—paints a brighter picture of the rampant sin/idolatry in Judah at this time!
      - King Ahaz offers his son to false god, Molech.
    - Idolatry (chapter 1)
      - We don't have this problem to do we? No shrines, statues, etc!
      - Stephen (in Acts)—in their HEARTS they turned to Egypt
        - Idolatry is looking, in the heart, for things other than God to give what only He gives.
        - The better a thing is, the more we must be on guard against idolizing it!
      - Idols—"SERVE ME OR DIE"
    - Injustice (chapter 2)
      - They had an inverted sense of good and evil
        - Instead of wealth and power to bless...they used it to crush
      - 2:1—woe to those who DEVISE WICKEDNESS and WORK EVIL on their beds.
        - The abusive scheme, and twist and execute demonic plots to crush with the power they have that could be used to bless.
      - 2:2—COVETOUSNESS is at the heart of this injustice!
        - Greed Dehumanizes!—Child factories in east Asia. Child slavery in Thailand.
      - A wrong view of God here!
        - If evolution is true...this is fine...survival of the fittest and consume the weak.
        - If God is real...then all people are in God's image and worthy of value, dignity, worth and love.
          - These people have a wrong view of God and have ceaseless quest for more power and money!
      - 2:3—against this family I am devising disaster. Now God is devising a plan against them!

- **v.6-11—About False Teachers**
  - Amazing that, as idolatry and injustice increase, our tolerance for God’s Word decreases! These teachers were giving credence to their actions!
  - **v.7—problem w/ turning from God’s Word = turning from what is good!**
  - **v.11—all these people care about is having whatever they want! Eat, drink and be merry.**
    - They don’t care about consequences, etc.
  - What about the people in verses 8-10 who have been robbed and abused and oppressed?
    - The King is coming! He will make everything bad come untrue!
    - Every sliver of injustice will be vindicated! Justice will be served!
- Micah was called into this world—a world wrought with sin, idolatry and wickedness!
  - May we be like Micah, declaring this message and living this life among a culture and world of wickedness and darkness.
- **Take the Gospel Seriously (2:12-13)**
  - The beautiful beams of the gospel shine more brightly when they penetrate through the deep dark clouds of the devastation of sin.
  - Hope rings loud against this backdrop!
  - Just as surely as we can bank on God’s righteous judgment of sin, we can bank on his gracious salvation of his people!
  - **God deals with ALL PEOPLE in 1 of 2 ways:**
    - **Deserved Judgment**
    - **Undeserved Grace**
  - **v.12—I will set them together, like sheep in a fold**
    - “a noisy multitude”
      - **A homebound THRONG**—moaning as we wait for our homeland knowing that rescue and redemption are coming fully!
        - **What’s our hope (Revelation 7:9-12) that’s the hope of the homebound, groaning crew!**
      - **“noisy multitude”**—The reality of deliverance ought to make us noisy with gratitude and praise!
        - A Jesus-exalted life involves our vocal chords
          - Don’t look like you just sucked on a lemon and swallowed sauerkraut
          - Make some noise, raise some praise, declare some praises to the One who died for you to give you endless goodness and mercy.
            - “I don’t feel like it”—we don’t all just wake up like cheerleaders but worship is warfare on our souls to call them into a right GRATITUDE toward God for salvation!
            - When we sing we are slinging missiles at the evil one!
      - The rescuer here, is a Shepherd
        - **John 10:11—the GOOD SHEPHERD lays his life down for the sheep**
    - **v. 13—The King passes on before them**
      - **2 Corinthians 2:14—But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession.**
      - **Colossians 2:15—he put them to open shame by triumphing over them in him.**
    - **God is the God of SURELY!**
      - This disaster and exile SURELY did happen.
      - Redemption SURELY did happen.
      - Revelation 7 SURELY will happen.
    - He WILL lead his people in triumphant victory.
    - **We have a shepherd that LOVES us, a deliverer who LIBERATES us and a King who LEADS us!**