

No God Like God: The Message of Micah For Our Generation

The Powerful: Ears That Itch for Religious Lies

Micah 1:2–2:13

September 22, 2019

Sunday Evening Bible Study

Micah 1:2–16: The Lawsuit: God v. Israel

Summary from last week (Paul Cheshier): God announces to the entire world that his people are guilty of egregious and persistent crimes and spiritual adultery. Therefore, God is going to bring judgment against Samaria (capital of the Northern Kingdom) and Jerusalem (capital of the Southern Kingdom) by permitting their enemy, Assyria, to invade their land and defeat them in battle. Micah's describes his ministry of announcing this bad news as a howling jackal and a mourning ostrich (1:8), which are not found in impressive cities like Samaria, but in the lonely wild. When Samaria is destroyed, the inhabitants will scatter in fear to this same wilderness.

Micah 2:1–13: The Powerful: Ears That Itch for Religious Lies

1. Micah's Warning: This message is for those in the ruling class who use your power to serve yourselves by oppressing the poor (2:1–2).
 - 1.1 Your sin of oppression is premeditated, cold, and calculated.
 - 1.2 You have broken the covenant with a holy God.
 - 1.3 Coveting (the tenth commandment) is desiring that which is outside of God's will for you.
 - 1.4 Stealing (the eighth commandment) is taking that which does not belong to you.
 - 1.5 Principle: Nothing tests the character like being entrusted with power.
 - 1.6 Principle: God expects his people to practice civil justice.
2. Micah's Verdict: Because of your oppression and injustice, judgment will be inescapable (3–5).
 - 2.1 Pride will be impossible in your humiliation (3).
 - 2.2 The praise and flattery you lived for will be replaced by mocking (4)
 - 2.3 The enemy (Assyria) will take your land by force just as you took the land by force (4).
 - 2.4 When the land is justly re-distributed, neither you nor your heirs will be there (5).

- 2.5 Principle: God does not miss or ignore corruption and oppression in government, but will hold every oppressor accountable (1 Peter 4:5).
- 2.6 God is very concerned about social justice (aka, civil justice).
3. Micah's Opponents: Stop preaching judgment! God is a God of love (6—7a).
 - 3.1 While God will judge other people, he won't judge us. We're special.
 - 3.2 Principle: We tend to cherry pick the Bible to create the God we want.
 - 3.3 Principle: True preachers preach what God wants the people to hear, not just what the people want to hear.
4. Micah's Rebuttal: God shows mercy to the upright who humble themselves, but he shows justice to those who act like his enemies by showing injustice to others (7b—10).
 - 4.1 You steal the clothes off of innocent people (8; Jn. 19:24; Lk. 10:30).
 - 4.2 You exploit widows and fatherless children who cannot defend themselves, resulting in generational poverty (9; Ex. 22:22; Dt. 24:20; Ps. 68:5).
 - 4.3 Because you took rest from others, God will take rest from you (10).
 - 4.4 You celebrate false preachers who flatter you and justify your oppression and greed (11).
 - 4.5 Principle: You can always find a preacher who will confirm your bias.
5. God's Promise: In my judgment, I will not completely destroy my covenant people, but will preserve a righteous remnant and keep my promise to Abraham (12—13).
 - 5.1 I am their shepherd and will gather the scattered flock back together (12).
 - 5.2 I am their king and will lead them to victory over their enemy (13; Isa. 37).
 - 5.3 Principle: The whole Bible is about Jesus (Mt. 1:9; Jn. 10:11; Lk. 23:3).