

Micah 1-2 – 14 May 2026

“What Shall It Profit?”

Introduction

Vs 1 – Micah is from the lowland foothills of Judah

He’s writing between 740-687 BC during the time of the Assyrian crisis (722 BC)

Assyria will conquer Israel in north but not Judah
Judah will ultimately fall to Babylon 140 yrs later

Let me ask you a question, “What are you living for?”

Is there a payoff or a profit at the end of your life?

We build things to get the years of benefit from building the thing

We pour love into people to get the years of friendship that can’t be gained otherwise

Doesn’t it makes sense that we should be seeking a profit at the end of this life?

Today, we answer the question, “What are we living for?” by breaking the question in 2 halves

#1 – Are we trying to gain eternal life? Believe God’s Word to the extent that it moves us (Chap 1)

Read 1:2-5

1. Both Israel in the north & Judah in the south have corrupted themselves
2. They’ve endured just over 200 years divided
3. They’ve both set up high places of pagan worship not in secret but even in their capital cities
 - a. It’s noted that God will come trample them
 - b. Read Psm 97:1-6
4. If unbelievers need judged, how much more right is it, for those that were given knowledge of God to be judged for great spiritual adultery

Read 1:6-7

1. All that they thought was gained by seeking their idols of pleasure, sex and fame will be lost
 - a. This answers (Read) Mark 8:36
 - b. Read Mark 8:34b-35 – The only good thing we can truly gain is eternal life

Read 1:8-9

1. The judgement that's coming is inescapable, that's why Micah mourns
2. The prophet mourns b/c he believes future prophecy is as good as done
 - a. We need to have this kind of belief in God's Word
 - b. To believe the Word to such an extent that it moved us in body, mind and spirit
3. Are we moved this way about unbelievers going to hell? We should be
4. Are we moved this way re: Christian suffering b/c they're committing sin? We should be

Read 1:10a

1. It would be an embarrassment to tell of Israel's coming judgement to Gath of Philistia

Intro to vss 10b-16

1. Micah does a play on words with the Judaic town names to speak of coming judgment

Read 1:10b-16

1. “Beth-le-aphrah” – Sounds like *dust*
2. “Shaphir” – *Beautiful*
3. “Zaanah” – Sounds like *exit*
4. “Beth-ezel” – *Nearby house*
5. “Maroth” – *Bitterness*
6. “Lachish” – Sounds like *horses*
7. “Moreseth-gath” – Sounds like *betrotted*
8. “Achzib” – Sounds like *deceitful*
9. “Mareshah” – Sounds like *heir*
10. Adullam is the place David hid
11. This is detailed out for each person to have the ability to personally apply the message to themselves
 - a. Exp – To the mechanics, they will have their gears ground to powder
 - b. Exp – To the athletes, they will run no further

#2 – Are we trying to gain this world? Sinful gain leads to losing even our natural lot in life (Chap 2)

Read 2:1-2

1. “Woe to you” is like saying “shock & awe” is coming to you
2. This is b/c they plan how to do evil as soon as possible
3. Their mind is dedicated to planning their theft

Read 2:3-5

1. Israel is pictured as a *family* that acquired much stuff by sinful methods
 - a. Then in vs 4 they’re devastated or robbed – removing all their sinful gain
 - b. Finally having even the land God gave them removed
2. This is like a father giving a son a bedroom w/ furnishing only to have the son get different furnishings by sinful means

- a. Then the father has to remove the sin-gains stuff and even kick the son out of the house
3. Read (again) Mark 8:36

Read 2:6-7

1. The people won't listen to God's prophets
2. The prophet's thoughts (from God) are meaningless to them, yet they still utter out their own thoughts
 - a. They don't care whose words actually have power and truth
3. They thought God wouldn't be so judgmental
 - a. Yet God does judge the cruel & evil
 - b. The key to escape is to walk uprightly by staying in God's Word!

Read 2:8-9

1. Again, Israel's sin of taking advantage of the vulnerable (travelers, women & children)

Read 2:10-11

1. God's judgement is for them to lose their lot in this land
 - a. The land that should be for rest has become restless chasing the wind that they can't catch
 - b. Turn to Heb 3:7-11, 16-19, 4:6-11
 - c. The only thing that brings rest is peace with God by believing in Jesus as our all-sufficiency

Read 2:12-13

1. Though Israel's judgment is sure, so is the restoration of their remnant in the end
2. As so many times, God's people are referred to as sheep – simple, needy, incapable sheep
 - a. Nothing good that happens to them in the end is b/c of themselves
 - b. God says, "I will, I will, I will"
3. The Breaker is a wonderful title for Messiah
 - a. The One that blazes the trail
 - b. The One that makes the path we can follow

Conclusion

So, it's a real binary question, what are you living for?

1. **If you're living for eternity, then you'll believe God's Word to the extent that you act**
 - a. We believe the things God said about the future just as much as the things He said that have already come to pass
2. **If you're living for the world, then you'll keep accumulating things, but be placing them in a bag with holes**
 - a. This leads to losing even the blessings that we do have & we'd find our place in hell

What are you being tempted to chase in this life

Money, popularity, pride of possessions?

Let's tempt each other to pursue Christ – the author and finisher of our faith!