

Micah 1,2**12-26-02****“Hear all you peoples!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Quote** pg.13,14 Tommy Tenney’s book “*You are a God Chaser if...*”.
 - 1.1.1. Catching God!
 - 1.1.2. Let’s pray:
- 1.2. **Layout of Book:** Ch.1,2 **Sins**; Ch.3-5 **Punishment**; Ch.6,7 **Hope!**
 - 1.2.1. **Note:** “hear, hear now, hear now”.
- 1.3. **Contemporaries:** **Hosea**(North) & **Isaiah** w/him in the(South).
 - 1.3.1. **Micah** mostly the South but also addresses the No.
- 1.4. **Background:** Judgment falling on the Northern kingdom in about 20 years. Another 130 yrs. judgment on the South. (740-687bc)
- 1.5. **Key Verse:** We are to be set apart from the world, but not in the sense of being *withdrawn* but of being *consecrated*.
 - 1.5.1. We are to live out our faith in **all** aspects of life.
 - 1.5.2. Now **read** vs.6:8. – What does God require of **me**?
 - 1.5.3. Micah emphasizes an important relationship between **spirituality** & **social ethics**(principles or standards of human conduct).
 - 1.5.3.1. “Israel & Judah missed that relationship. They traded **beauty** for **ashes**, but Micah was determined to turn them around.”¹

2. The Lord on the Witness Stand! (ch.1:1-16)

- 2.1. **A Woeful Witness against them!** (1-7)
- 2.2. (1) **Micah** = Who is like the Lord? [7:18 play on the consonants in his own name]
- 2.3. (2,3) **Story** – Growing up I remember after many warnings, dad would get off his black leather throne(recliner) & you’d hear the sound of the belt whistling through the loops. Like the sound of a mighty rushing wind!

¹ Chuck Swindoll; pg.50

- 2.4. (3-7) The Nations **idolatry** was but **harlotry** against the Lord, & **unfaithfulness** must be judged!
- 2.4.1. The Lord desires a **wife** not a **prostitute**!
- 2.4.2. In **Tommy Tenney's** book "*You are a God Chaser if...*" (I quote) "if your concept of "church" means low commitment, high anointing, the feeling of being blessed, & receiving the "spiritual gifts" like a "gold-digger," then all you've ever wanted to do is "**date**" God. However, the last time I checked, He was still looking for a bride, not a girlfriend; one who is willing to put on the ring of commitment."
- 2.5. **Micah Mourning for Israel & Judah!** (8-16)
- 2.6. (8,9) Notice he didn't say, "you are getting what you deserve!" Instead, he mourned like a man at a funeral.
- 2.6.1. **Q:** Does the certainty of coming judgment cause us to mourn over lost sinners & seek to win them to Christ?
- 2.7. (10-16) Here we have *clever word play* to get his point across.
- 2.7.1. **Hebrew Poetry** = not rhyme, but often contrasting ideas!
- 2.7.2. **Little Orphan Annie** once had a ballet teacher named **Anya Toze**.
- 2.7.3. The gossip columnist for *Brenda's Starr's Newspaper* is given the name of **Gabby Van Slander**.²
- 2.7.4. Micah makes similar name plays on **town names**.
- 2.7.4.1. This passage gives us the longest sustained *play upon words* found in the O.T.
- 2.7.5. **James Moffat's literary bible translation captures it this way:**
- 2.7.5.1. "Weep tears at **Teartown**...
Grovel in the dust at **Dustown**...
Fare forth stripped, O **Fairtown**...
Stirtown...dare not stir...
To horse & driveaway, O **horsetown**...!
Israel's kings are balked...at **Balktown**."³
- 2.7.5.2. **The Warning could be heard today:**
Los Angeles, you city of lost Angels;
Philadelphia, city of brotherly hate;
New York, a Big Apple w/a rotten core;
Chicago – Windy City – full of hot air.
Cincinnati - sin,sin city! (adapted from Jim Townsend pg.48)

² Jim Townsend in The Minor Prophets; pg.48

³ James Moffat; quoted from Jim Townsend in The Minor Prophets; pg.48.

- 2.8. (15,16) **God's Ultimatum:** "I will come" (15) – "They will go!" (16)
 2.8.1. (16) Written in the feminine gender.
 2.8.2. 1 cor.11:15 "if a **woman has long hair, it is her glory?** For long hair is given to her as a covering."

3. **Woes & Wonder! (ch.2:1-13)**

- 3.1. **Land Monopolists! (1-5)**
 3.1.1. **What had they done?** – The powerful had defrauded the poor of their homes, land, & ancestral inheritances.
 3.1.1.1. He 1st deals with their **covetousness**...which Paul says is **idolatry!** (Col.3:5) "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, **and covetousness, which is idolatry.**"
 3.1.1.2. **Covetous** = extreme desire to acquire. "It is the desiring of someone or something before the desire of God." {me}
 3.1.2. (1) Most go to sleep reflecting on their day. Often remorseful for how we treated someone.
 3.1.2.1. It's often a time of soulful contemplation...Not these guys!
 3.1.2.2. They go to bed dreaming of **how** to get the next guy! – The morning they arise & go **do it!**
 3.1.3. Micah posts a "**wanted Poster**" for the land looters who are playing Monopoly for real. **The people who own Boardwalk want Baltic Ave, too!**
 3.1.4. (2) If people couldn't pay they foreclosed on their mortgages despite Israel's ancient ancestral land rights.
 3.1.4.1. **Interesting statistic:** American banks endured 8,259 robberies, burglaries and larcenies in 2001. On average, about **\$4,400** is stolen per robbery.
 3.1.4.1.1. **Crime doesn't pay!**
 3.1.5. (3) Contrast the "taker" Zaccheus (Lk.19:8) "**Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore(give back) fourfold."**
 3.1.6. (4) "**lament w/bitter lamentation**" – "nahah, nehi, niyah." (Heb.)
 3.1.6.1. We might say "groaning, moaning, bemoaning."⁴

⁴ Leslie Allen

- 3.2. **Lying Prophets!** (6-11)
- 3.3. (6) They rejected God's word(given thru the prophet).
- 3.4. "Do not prophesy," their prophets say." (NIV)
- 3.4.1. Or, "Don't preach they preach to us!"
- 3.4.2. Have you ever had someone say, "Don't preach to me"...what did they just do? [They preached to you about preaching to them!]
- 3.4.3. It's like the assertion, "There are no absolute statements". Ask them, "Do you believe that **absolutely**?"
- 3.5. (7-11) They wanted a **pleasant** message about **security & strong drink**.
- 3.5.1. False Prophets denied that God would ever be angry w/His people.
- 3.5.1.1. Same today, "God is a God of love"(i.e. He does not punish) **So, why change?**
- 3.5.2. "Prosperity teachers" are usually **popular**, while those who declare the truth's of God's word are often **persecuted**.
- 3.5.3. **Truth excludes:** "If truth does not exclude, then no assertion of a truth claim is being made; it's just an opinion that is being stated. Any time you make a truth claim, you mean something contrary to it is false. Truth excludes its opposite." (Ravi Zacharias)
- 3.5.4. (10) "This is not your rest!" – What a great reminder to us today!
- 3.5.4.1. Don't look in the **law** for that which can only be found in the **gospel!**
Don't look w/in **yourself** for that which can only be found in **Christ!**
Don't look to the **creature** for that which can only be found in the **Creator!**
Don't look **on earth** for that which can only be found in **Heaven!**⁵
- 3.5.4.2. "This is **not** our rest, it is **not designed to be** our rest, it is **not fit to be** our rest!"
- 3.6. **The Shepherd King!** (12,13)
- 3.7. How gracious of God to end this section w/a message of **hope!**
- 3.7.1. He will spare a remnant. (Millennium)
- 3.7.2. He will gather them together as a Shepherd does his flock.
- 3.8. Micah speaks of "both" comings of the Messiah!
- 3.8.1. **1st coming** – 5:2
- 3.8.2. **2nd coming** – here in vs.12,13. (also, 4:1-8; 5:4,5)

⁵ Adapted from Rev. William Jay; Morning Exercises; Sept.29

3.9. (13) **Read** Spurgeon; Morn & Eve; Micah 2:13.

3.10. **“The breaker is come up before them.”** - Micah 2:13

3.11. Inasmuch as Jesus has gone before us, things remain not as they would have been had he never passed that way. He has conquered every foe that obstructed the way. Cheer up now thou faint-hearted warrior. Not only has Christ traveled the road, but he has slain thine enemies. Dost thou dread **sin**? He has nailed it to his cross. Dost thou fear **death**? He has been the death of Death. Art thou afraid of **hell**? He has barred it against the advent of any of his children; they shall never see the gulf of perdition. **Whatever foes may be before the Christian, they are all overcome. There are lions, but their teeth are broken; there are serpents, but their fangs are extracted; there are rivers, but they are bridged or fordable; there are flames, but we wear that matchless garment which renders us invulnerable to fire. The sword that has been forged against us is already blunted; the instruments of war which the enemy is preparing have already lost their point. God has taken away in the person of Christ all the power that anything can have to hurt us. Well then, the army may safely march on, and you may go joyously along your journey, for all your enemies are conquered beforehand. What shall you do but march on to take the prey? They are beaten, they are vanquished; all you have to do is to divide the spoil. You shall, it is true, often engage in combat; but your fight shall be with a vanquished foe. His head is broken; he may attempt to injure you, but his strength shall not be sufficient for his malicious design. Your victory shall be easy, and your treasure shall be beyond all count.**

3.12. **“Proclaim aloud the Saviour’s fame,
Who bears the Breaker’s wond’rous name;
Sweet name; and it becomes him well,
Who breaks down earth, sin, death, and hell.”**