

# MICAH: HOPE AMID DOOM

## Lesson #2 — Micah 2:1-13

### God's Justice for the Victim and the Victimizer

#### Review

Considering the political and spiritual climate of Israel at the time of Micah's ministry, rate how easy it would have been to carry out his prophetic work.

#### Introduction

Complete this sentence:

"If you want peace...

(according to Napoleon /  
Publix's Flavius Vegetius Renatus)

(according to Henry Louis Mencken /  
Pope Paul VI)

#### Woe to the Greedy Land Grabbers!

##### **Micah 2:1-2**

*Woe to those who plan iniquity,  
to those who plot evil on their beds!  
At morning's light they carry it out  
because it is in their power to do it.  
2 They covet fields and seize them,  
and houses, and take them.  
They defraud people of their homes,  
they rob them of their inheritance.*

To which people does God issue his warning of woe?

Characterize their actions.

Land had a special significance to God's Old Testament people. Explain the seriousness of taking someone's land and home.

**Micah 2:3-5**

Therefore, the Lord says:  
*"I am planning disaster against this people,  
 from which you cannot save yourselves.  
 You will no longer walk proudly,  
 for it will be a time of calamity.  
 4 In that day people will ridicule you;  
 they will taunt you with this mournful  
 song:  
 'We are utterly ruined;  
 my people's possession is divided up.  
 He takes it from me!  
 He assigns our fields to traitors.'"  
 5 Therefore you will have no one in the  
 assembly of the Lord  
 to divide the land by lot.*

How does God answer their "might makes right" mentality?  
 (cf Hebrews 10:31)

Uncover the deeper spiritual danger behind their greed and corruption.

Since their greed and corruption demonstrate spiritual corruption, how does God's punishment fit the crime?

We want to show compassion and empathy toward those who get sick, lose their jobs, or miss out on special commemorative events. Draw up a warning from these verses for those who make wealth and possessions their top priority and sole motivation in life.

**False Prophets Support Greedy Land Grabbers****Micah 2:6-7a**

*"Do not prophesy," their prophets say.  
 "Do not prophesy about these things;  
 disgrace will not overtake us."  
 7 You descendants of Jacob,  
 should it be said,  
 "Does the Lord become impatient?  
 Does he do such things?"*

The false prophets are speaking here. Identity their double sin.

In the first half of verse 7, Micah is using the words of the false prophets. How would you summarize their faulty theology?

**Micah 2:7b-9**

*“Do not my words do good  
to the one whose ways are upright?  
8 Lately my people have risen up  
like an enemy.  
You strip off the rich robe  
from those who pass by without a care,  
like men returning from battle.  
9 You drive the women of my people  
from their pleasant homes.  
You take away my blessing  
from their children forever.*

In the second half of verse 7, Micah switches to God’s voice. Why can God say his words “do good” to sinners?

By taking advantage of people, how are the people showing that they aren’t God’s people?

We’ve heard a lot about the 1% lately. What are the spiritual dangers for both the 1% and the 99%?

**Micah 2:10-11**

*Get up, go away!  
For this is not your resting place,  
because it is defiled,  
it is ruined, beyond all remedy.  
11 If a liar and deceiver comes and says,  
‘I will prophesy for you plenty of  
wine and beer,’  
that would be just the prophet  
for this people!*

The Lord is cleaning house. Why doesn’t he allow the greedy to have a resting place?

Mercenary prophets tell people what they want to hear. Why is this so appealing for both the prophet and his audience?

An “attractational church” has a way of doing ministry whose primary purpose is to make Christianity appealing. It sounds like a good way to reach unbelievers. In reality it only converts people to consumerism in the church. Explain why.

## Messianic Deliverance for the Remnant

### **Micah 2:12-13**

*"I will surely gather all of you, Jacob;  
I will surely bring together  
the remnant of Israel.  
I will bring them together like sheep  
in a pen,  
like a flock in its pasture;  
the place will throng with people.  
13 The One who breaks open the way  
will go up before them;  
they will break through the gate and go out.  
Their King will pass through before them,  
the Lord at their head."*

This is a picture of God's grace. The Lord does this work only by his power. Use the following verses to show that these promises apply to us as well: Romans 9:6; Romans 11:5; Rev 7:9.

Uncover the identity of The Breaker.

To what blessings do we now have access? (John 10:9)

It seems like God whiplashes back and forth between messages of judgment and hope in the Bible. Explain how this approach provides the basis for peace.

## **Conclusion**

Sometimes it seems like the wicked and corrupt keep getting ahead in life. It sure seems like the churches that water down the Bible's message are more successful.

Use Micah's message to show that these perceptions aren't reality, or at least how temporary they are.

Determine a way to find peace in your heart when so much seems to be going wrong in this world.