

Micah 2:1-11 “Eviction Notice”

For the Children: Some people in New Zealand are having trouble finding a house in which to live. They stay with friends, or sleep in cars or shelters. Imagine what that would be like! Imagine if a very rich man from our church threw you out of your house, because he wanted it for himself – and your family then had to find shelter. That is what was happening in Israel in Micah’s time. The Lord warned that He was going to throw the wicked out of their land because of what they were doing. God commands us to show our love for Him by loving others – especially fellow-believers; and particularly those who are very needy. **Questions:** How can you help those in need in the church? Why does the Lord want us to look after the needy in His church? If God promises to save His people, how come He warns them of punishment if they turn to wickedness?

Introduction:

First Point: The Greedy Landowners

- 1) Pre-Meditated Sin: The rich and powerful landowners pre-meditate their unscrupulous grabbing of more land from the poor (v.1). They rush to carry out their plans as soon as the day begins. They seize fields and houses, robbing men of their land and inheritance. They take the robes of the poor as a pledge. They evict women and children (vss. 8-9).
- 2) Not Just Social Injustice: Many unbelievers today would see this as a social injustice. But more than that, it is against the 10th commandment – a matter of coveting (v. 2). Coveting also involves idolatry. It is against the covenant-law that forbids maltreatment of the poor and vulnerable (Ex.22:22, 26-27; Lev.19:13; Mk.12:40). Care of widows and orphans is part of “true religion” (James.1:27). It is bad enough to mistreat one’s neighbour; doubly bad to become the “enemy” of one’s brethren (v. 8). It also ignores the fact that God gave each family in the OT their special allotment of land, which was to remain with them – a pointer to the certainty of the promise of our eternal portion in heaven, through Christ.

Second Point: The False Prophets

- 1) Pet Prophets: As often happens, the rich and powerful had their own “pet” prophets, “spokesmen” (v. 11) who told them what they wanted to hear. They tried to silence Micah and other true prophets (v. 6). Micah was warning against judgement, but they prophesied heady days of an abundance of alcohol (v.11). See Jer.6:14.
- 2) The False Argument: The false prophets argued that Micah was implying that God lacks patience with His people (v.7) – contrary to Ex.34:6-7 etc. They also argued that Micah was implying that God was going to break His covenant promises and give the Land to the apostate invaders (v. 4).
- 3) Micah’s Reply: Micah replies that you can see the falsity of these men by the fact that they are backing the wicked landowners (v. 8), Men who are full of wind, and of lies (v.11). God is compassionate, but He by no means leaves the wicked unpunished (Ex.34:7; also Dt.26:16, with chap. 27). God’s grace must not be “cheapered.”

Third Point: The True Prophet

- 1) The Great Prophet Speaks Through the OT Prophets: The Lord Jesus speaks the truth through the faithful preaching of the OT prophets like Micah. See 1 Pet.3:18-19. His Word always does good to those who are walking uprightly (v.7b). – even when the wicked claim that it is harsh and harmful.
- 2) The Great Judge Judges Through the Warnings of the OT Prophets: Christ is not only Saviour, He is also Lord and Judge. He therefore warns the wicked of coming judgement. He did so to Israel in His own time, and to OT Israel through the faithful prophets. If these warnings are not passed on, how would sinners be turned back (v.6)? But if they do not turn back, God will justly punish the wicked even among His own people: they would be “evicted” from their houses by the Assyrians (and later the Babylonians). They would become like the Canaanites, who were so full of defilement that they had to be removed from the Land. This shows the importance of demonstrating love for God by loving our neighbour – and especially our needy brethren

Conclusion:

